



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Coming off Sweet 16 run, No. 6 Nevada starts 8-0 for 2nd straight season
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Life of 41st president celebrated with praise, humor at state funeral
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018

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Sixteen Green Berets who fought across enemy lines in Vietnam were killed when their base was attacked on Aug. 23, 1968, near Da Nang. This year, their families and survivors were finally able to jointly commemorate their dead.

DIANNA CAHN/Stars and Stripes

A proper farewell

Families, survivors come together 50 years after deadly Special Forces battle to share memories, heal

BY DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

The enemy came down the mountain and in from all sides in the middle of the night wearing loincloths and headbands with a message written in blood that translated into: "We come here to die."

North Vietnamese and Viet Cong special

LAS VEGAS
operations forces, known to the Americans as sappers, took the slumbering camp by surprise. The beachside forward operating base at the foot of sacred Marble Mountain was one of six in the region belonging to Green Berets fighting secretly "across the fence" in Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam.

But on Aug. 23, 1968, FOB 4 became the site of a brutal battle.

SEE FAREWELL ON PAGE 6



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INSIDE

16-page pullout section commemorating 50th anniversary of the war's most volatile year

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Prosecutors recommend no jail time for cooperative Flynn

BY CHAD DAY AND ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former national security adviser provided so much information to the special counsel's Russia investigation that prosecutors say he shouldn't do any prison time, according to a court filing that describes Michael Flynn's cooperation as "substantial."



Flynn

The filing by special counsel Robert Mueller provides the first details of Flynn's assistance in the Russia investigation, including that he participated in 19 interviews with prosecutors and cooperated extensively in a separate and undisclosed criminal probe. But the filing's lengthy recitations also underscore how much Mueller has yet to reveal.

It was filed Tuesday, two weeks ahead of Flynn's sentencing and just

over a year after he became one of five Trump associates to plead guilty in the Russia probe, in his case admitting to lying to the FBI about conversations with the Russian ambassador to the U.S.

Though prosecutors withheld specific details of Flynn's cooperation because of ongoing investigations, their filing nonetheless illustrates the breadth of information Mueller has obtained from people close to Trump

as the president increasingly vents his anger at the probe — and those who cooperate with it.

This week, Trump accused his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, of making up "stories" to get a reduced prison sentence after pleading guilty to lying to Congress and praised longtime confidante Roger Stone for saying he wouldn't testify against Trump.

SEE FLYNN ON PAGE 10

MILITARY

Special Counsel probes VA doctor's retirement

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Department of Veterans Affairs doctor who claimed his supervisors forced him to retire after he warned of anesthesiologists making near-fatal mistakes during surgeries was temporarily reinstated to his job, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel announced Tuesday.

Dr. Robert Cameron, a thoracic surgeon at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, will get his job back for 45 days while the Special Counsel continues its investigation into the situation, the Merit Systems Protection Board decided. The board hears appeals from federal employees who believe they were inappropriately fired, suspended or disciplined.

The Office of Special Counsel is an independent federal investigative agency that protects whistleblowers.

"OSC will thoroughly investigate and, if necessary, seek corrective action if we find Dr. Cameron was retaliated against for speaking up when he saw patients' health being put in jeopardy," Special Counsel Henry Kerner said in a statement.

In the stay order issued Friday, the Merit Systems Protection Board said there were reasonable grounds to believe the VA had coerced Cameron into retiring in violation of federal law.

Cameron has been a VA employee for more than 20 years. In the most recent year, the agency rated his performance as "outstanding," the order states.

During two of his surgeries, on Sept. 6, 2017, and then Feb. 21, 2018, life-threatening medical complications arose that Cameron believed were caused by mistakes or the inexperience of the anesthesiologists involved in the operations.

Days after the February incident, Cameron emailed his supervisor and the hospital's chief of anesthesiology, criticizing the practice of assigning inexperienced anesthesiologists to thoracic surgeries.

In the email, he wrote he could not "look our veterans in the eye and tell them that they will be saved for," the stay order states.

Cameron raised his concerns again with supervisors in May. On June 22, his supervisor told him his services were "no longer required" and gave him a separation date of July 7.

"Dr. Cameron asserts that he felt that he had no choice but to retire under these circumstances, and, as a result, retired effectively July 6, 2018," the order states.

When he left, he was the only thoracic surgeon employed by the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, the order states. He had 27 patients waiting for surgery.

Following the decision from the Merit Systems Protection Board, the VA had five days to comply with the order and reinstate Cameron. He's allowed to remain in the job until Jan. 13, to give the Office of Special Counsel more time to investigate.

"Given Dr. Cameron's terrific track record, the VA's decision to separate him from employment raises concerns," Kerner said.

Last year, Congress passed legislation with the intent to protect VA whistleblowers.

The VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act is still highly touted by President Donald Trump as a fix-all to root out a culture of corruption at the VA. The legislation created the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection to oversee disciplinary actions and investigate misconduct and instances of whistleblower retaliation, but its effectiveness has recently come into question.

Some Democrats in Congress have aired concerns about the office inappropriately being used to punish staff for minor offenses or whistleblowing. Four senators called on the VA Inspector General to investigate its actions.

Want to know more?
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USS Ronald Reagan returns to homeport

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The nation's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier returned to its Yokosuka homeport Wednesday after spending nearly four months patrolling the Western Pacific.

Families and friends of the USS Ronald Reagan sailors waited with patriotic signs as their loved ones pulled into port. They were joined by Santa Claus, who welcomed the crew home just in time for the holidays.

The carrier and its crew of more than 4,000 servicemembers set sail Aug. 14, kicking off its second cruise of the year by training with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force in the Philippines Sea. The Ronald Reagan had completed a two-month patrol of the South and Philippine seas in July.

Working with the Navy's Japanese counterparts was a key element of the Reagan's underway period, 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Keiley said in an email to Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

"While underway, Ronald Reagan participated in several cooperative deployments with the (JMSDF) and conducted multiple exercises including Valiant Shield 2018 and Keen Sword 2019," he said.

Keen Sword brought the United States and Japan together last month for training on land, sea and air across the region. The Ronald Reagan participated in anti-submarine drills with F-18 Super Hornets during the exercise.

Valiant Shield took the crew to the Northern Marianas in September for a weeklong, U.S.-only

exercise with 15,000 sailors, airmen, soldiers and Marines. The group practiced maritime security operations, anti-submarine and air defense drills and sunk a decommissioned ship with live fire in a sinking exercise.

In early November, the Ronald Reagan took part in dual-carrier drills with the USS John C. Stennis off the coast of the Philippines near the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

The Ronald Reagan also made numerous port visits during the patrol.

"Personnel from the Ronald Reagan Strike Group also visited several ports including Apra Harbor, Guam; Jeju, Republic of Korea; and Hong Kong, People's Republic of China," Keiley said.

The port visit to Hong Kong was especially significant because it marked the first time U.S. vessels visited China since the country deployed the USS *Wasp* a similar visit in September.

The Sasebo-based amphibious assault ship's denial had come after 10 percent tariffs were levied on \$200 billion of annual Chinese imports and the U.S. had issued sanctions on China after discovering the country had bought fighter jets from Russia and a surface-to-air missile system.

One Ronald Reagan sailor, Petty Officer 3rd Class Zahir Hakeem, died during the port visit to Guam. He went missing while swimming near Hagupit Beach at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam, the Navy said. His body was discovered in the water the following day.

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STARS AND STRIPES
Commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor

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COMMEMORATING THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

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WAR ON TERRORISM

NATO chief: Taliban not letting up

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

NATO's top official warned Wednesday that security conditions could worsen in Afghanistan, where casualty rates have increased in a war that is now in its 18th year.

"It may actually become worse before it gets better in Afghanistan," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said after two days of talks with NATO foreign ministers in Brussels.

Attacks by the Taliban could increase in an attempt by the militants to strengthen their hand at the negotiating table, Stoltenberg said.

However, coalition leaders have warned that the pace of casualties among Afghan security forces is unsustainable. Since 2015, more than 28,000 Afghan police and soldiers have been killed in combat. The U.S. also has experienced more casualties in Afghanistan this year — 14 Americans have died in the country in 2018.

Stoltenberg acknowledged Afghanistan faces "many problems." "We see violence. We see casualties," he said.

On Tuesday, frustration over the war was apparent during a Senate hearing in Washington, where the nominee to serve as the next head of U.S. Central Command was grilled by lawmakers over the state of the war.

Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. said he couldn't forecast when the 17-year-old mission would end and U.S. troops could return home. Without U.S. support, Af-

ghan forces would likely fall to the Taliban, he added.

"They're not there yet," McKenzie said of Afghan security forces. "If we left precipitously right now, I do not believe they would be able to successfully defend their country. I don't know how long it's going to take."

McKenzie and NATO allies argue that leaving Afghanistan risks allowing the country to once again become a haven for extremists who would use the territory as a base to plot attacks abroad.

In Brussels, Stoltenberg said allies are determined to stay the course in Afghanistan despite the difficulties.

"We remain committed to supporting Afghanistan," Stoltenberg said.

"This is obviously good for the Afghan people. But it is also in our own interest. Because a secure and stable Afghanistan makes us all safer."

Stoltenberg said allies are focused on training Afghans to operate more effectively and in turn lower their casualty rates.

"This is something which is really high on our agenda," Stoltenberg said.

Since NATO ended its formal combat mission in Afghanistan four years ago, the Taliban have gained territory and seen their force levels strengthen. McKenzie said there are roughly 60,000 Taliban fighters now, which is higher than past estimates.

Still, Stoltenberg said now is the time for peace talks.

bring the Taliban to the negotiating table.

Imran Khan and Zalmay Khalilzad, who is tasked with finding a resolution to the Afghan War, held talks on Wednesday in Islamabad.

The meeting comes days after



FRANCISCO SECO/AF

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, left, and Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani talk at a meeting of the North Atlantic Council and Resolute Support in Brussels on Wednesday.

"The Taliban must understand that continuing the fight is pointless and only causes more suffering. They should sit down at the negotiating table," Stoltenberg said.

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Pakistani PM says Afghan peace in his country's interest

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's prime minister told a U.S. special envoy that peace and reconciliation in neighboring Afghanistan is in his country's abiding interest but stopped short of promising to

President Donald Trump reached out to Khan, seeking his cooperation in ending the 17-year-old conflict.

According to a statement, Khan "reiterated Pakistan's abiding interest in achieving peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan

MILITARY

It's 'twilight' for survivors of Pearl Harbor

BY WILLIAM COLE
Honolulu Star-Advertiser

It's extra noteworthy that Everett Hyland, a Dec. 7, 1941, attack survivor who was on the USS Pennsylvania, will return the salute of a passing Navy warship at Friday's anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Hyland, 95, will do so on behalf of all Pearl Harbor survivors and World War II veterans as the ship sails by the sunken USS Arizona. That salute will be extra poignant because there are fewer and fewer survivors to render it themselves.

For the first time in many years, not a single USS Arizona survivor will be present for the 7:50 a.m. 77th commemoration on the back lawn of the Arizona Memorial visitor center. A total of 1,177 men were killed, and more than 900 remain entombed in the battleship.

Just five crew are still alive: Lauren Bruner, 98; Lonnie Cook, 98; Ken Potts, 97; Lou Conter, 97; and Don Stratton, 96. Old age and failing health prevented even a single Arizona survivor from making the lengthy trip to Oahu this year.

Daniel Martinez, chief historian for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which includes the Arizona Memorial, called it a "twilight" for the Pearl Harbor generation.

"We're lucky to have five Arizona survivors left," Martinez said. "At their age of 95-plus, it's remarkable that they've had that longevity, and it keeps us still secured to the idea that someone could tell us what



ARTHUR GWINN L. MARQUEZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

For the first time in many years, no USS Arizona survivors will attend the Pearl Harbor commemoration at the USS Arizona Memorial visitor center in Honolulu on Friday.

happened — because they witnessed it." But those eyewitnesses are "fading right before our eyes," said.

Longtime Honolulu resident Ray Emory, who fired back at attacking Japanese planes with a .50-caliber machine gun from the USS Honolulu, and who spent decades trying to identify Dec. 7 casualties buried as "unknowns" at Punchbowl cemetery on Oahu, died in August at age 97.

In the two-hour attack about 2,455 men, women and children were killed. The total

included 2,390 American servicemen and Oahu civilians, 56 Japanese aviators and up to nine Japanese submariners.

Conter, who helped with the wounded on the stricken Arizona and later flew PBV Catalinas, getting shot down twice, made it out to Pearl Harbor at least the past 15 years to remember his fallen shipmates.

"It's hard to walk up those steps and look at those names there and know what happened," the Grass Valley, Calif., resident said of the names of the fallen inscribed in

the shrine room of the Arizona Memorial.

But he and lots of family each year made the trip, nevertheless. Conter said he wanted to come out this year, too, and made reservations. But the effects of a hospitalization sidelined him.

"My doctor said, 'Lou, damn it, you're old. It takes twice as long to get well — so remember that,'" Conter said in a phone interview.

Stratton, another Arizona crewmember who was there for the Pearl Harbor anniversary last year, was one of six men saved by climbing hand over hand on a rope tied to the repair ship USS Vestal as flames consumed the Arizona. The Colorado Springs, Colo., resident won't be making the trip for the first time in 11 years because his wife, Velma, 92, doesn't feel able to make the long journey, said son Randy.

All the traveling "really makes them so tired and exhausted by the time they get back," Randy Stratton said. "It takes a week for them to recuperate from all that."

Still, about 40 World War II veterans — nearly half of whom are Pearl Harbor survivors — are expected, the Navy said.

Extensive repairs needed to the dock servicing the memorial put a halt to walk-on visits starting in May, and survivors will not be able to step foot on the memorial this Dec. 7. The dock is not expected to be back in service until at least March.

Several of the Navy launches now used to ferry visitors on a tour of Battleship Row will be utilized for survivors and families to present a floral tribute adjacent to the sunken battleship.

MILITARY

Air Force officer sentenced for sex crimes

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — An Air Force weather officer was convicted Tuesday on multiple counts of sex crimes after sharing hundreds of sexually explicit messages, photographs and video with two undercover agents whom he believed to be 14 years old.

Capt. Sean Miller, assigned to the 7th Weather Squadron in Wiesbaden, was sentenced to 18 months in jail and dismissal from the service.

Military judge Lt. Col. Will Babo found the former youth soccer coach guilty of all charges, despite defense arguments that Air Force Office of Special Investigations' methods rose to the level of entrapment.

Miller was convicted of five counts of attempting to commit a lewd act upon a person he believed to be a minor via online communications and two counts of soliciting those same individuals to produce and distribute child pornography.

He pleaded not guilty to all charges at the start of his court-martial Monday and declined to have his case tried by a jury of officers.

The charges against Miller



LANE PLUMMER/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Then-1st Lt. Sean Miller, shown in 2016 at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, Germany, was convicted for sharing sexually explicit material with undercover agents posing as underage girls.

date to November 2016. While deployed to Hurlburt Field, Fla., for training, he responded to a "casual encounters" ad on Craigslist.

The site has since shut down personal ads for romance and sex after Congress passed a law cracking down on sex trafficking of children.

Posted by "Tiffany," the ad stated that she was a military dependent looking for fun with people who had base access.

In reality, Tiffany was an OSI agent working at Hurlburt as part of an Internet Crimes Against Children sting.

The operation was focused on the Defense Department community in north Florida, agents testified in court.

Miller's initial communication with Tiffany was benign.

"Hey, I'm sorry you're lonely," he wrote. "I'd like to help you out."

When the agent wrote his persona was 14, Miller said, "Hey, we can never meet. I'm a little older than you," and told her he was 28.

Tiffany wrote she was OK with the age difference, that she didn't want a friend, was "tired of boys" and was "looking for someone mature."

Miller remained cautious, according to court testimony. He said that he didn't want to get in trouble. After several more exchanges the conversation turned sexual.

But then the emails from Miller stopped for several days. The OSI agent testified that he tried to re-engage Miller and found out he had left Florida and was stationed in Germany. He told Miller about Tiffany's friend, "Kerri" — a 4-year-old girl who lived on Ramstein with her mother — and gave Miller her email address.

Kerri was really another OSI agent working at Ramstein. Miller contacted her immediately, telling her at one point he was interested in "massages, kisses and sex."

For more than three months, Miller communicated with the undercover agents by email and Kik, a mobile instant messaging app. He first sent them just a photo of his face and random self-

ies that eventually escalated to sexual photos exposing himself.

His language was often X-rated. A video he sent to one of the agents that appears to show him masturbating was played in court. The agent posing as Kerri sent Miller enhanced photos of herself that made her appear younger and smaller. He prodded the agents to provide him with sexual photos and videos, which they never did.

The agents said in court they made it clear their personas were underage; they said they were 14 and, throughout their chats with Miller, wrote about typical teenage concerns and topics, such as school, soccer games, boys and their parents.

Miller appeared to be worried about getting caught, frequently telling Kerri to delete his messages and keep their correspondence secret. He never arranged a meet-up.

Miller was arrested in February 2017 while deployed to Qatar.

The defense argued that Miller, struggling with depression and in a bad marriage at the time, was starved for affection. He was obsessed with sex but not with minors, his attorneys said.

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MILITARY

Farewell: Survivors and families gather to help find closure

FROM FRONT PAGE

The attackers carried grenades, AK-47 rifles and bundles of explosives tied together, known as satchel charges. They swept in quietly and got to work, blowing up hooches and the ammunition store, pushing in air-conditioning units to throw in satchel charges and firing at will as soldiers — some wearing nothing more than their underwear — jumped out of bed and ran into the bullet stream.

In one of the most deadly nights in Special Forces history, 16 American families would be shrouded by grief and isolated in secrecy.

This was the classified war. Their sons, husbands, fathers, brothers were killed in secret circumstances. They would not gather in memorial, nor would they learn for many years the heroic details of how young soldiers and combat veterans shook off the stunning attack and fought face-to-face with the enemy that had penetrated their inner sanctum.

Lt. Dan Thompson arrived at FOB 4 just days after the attack. As platoon leader for the Hatchett Force — indigenous special operators who conducted search-and-destroy missions along the Ho Chi Minh Trail — he was tasked with helping to rebuild, man the listening post on the mountain, restore security and train, school and equip the South Vietnamese commandos.

The bodies had all been removed, he recalled. But the devastation was a constant reminder of the enormity of loss.

"There was no time for grieving," Thompson said. "The camp needed rebuilding. Security was on high alert. Recon teams were reforming and training. There was a shortage of men, so it was put your head down and put one foot in front of the other."

Memorial breakfast

Five years later, Dan Thompson was standing in front of survivors and family members of those lost on that long-ago 23 Aug. 1968.

They had gathered for a memorial at the Special Operations Association reunion in Las Vegas in October — the first time families of the dead at Marble Mountain were given a place of honor. Relatives of 11 of the 16 Americans who died were attending, and for some, tears were already flowing.

Most had never met.

But sitting alongside the men who survived, after so long, the family members finally felt like they had a community of their own.

Mary Welch was a mother of two, including a 3-month-old, when her husband, Donald Welch, was killed. Bette had sat Ronnie Morton — her partner of 47 years. Louise Cogan lost her first love, Spc. Anthony Santana, just 20 days after they eloped. Paul Uyesaka sat stoic but overwhelmed beside his grown son and daughter, remembering his firstborn older brother whose shoes he never believed he could fill. There were Master Sgt. Rolf Rickmers' two sons, whose childhood memories of him continue to occupy their lives. And Doris Ray Curry, widow of Sgt. 1st Class Harold Voorhees, who couldn't stop crying, sat among the last men to see him alive.

All finding solace they didn't know they needed.

"You think you are over it," said Steve Bric, there with his wife, son and daughter and his sister, Cathy. He remembered the pain of watching his mother receive that folded flag after his brother, Pfc. William Bric, was buried.

"Fifty years later, I am more emotional than I was a year after," he said. "This is the most healing thing in the world."



Photos courtesy of Staff Sgt. Raymond Steele

A soldier poses by a damaged barracks in the recon area following the attack at FOB 4 near Da Nang, Vietnam on Aug. 23, 1968.



A hole in the fence on the perimeter of FOB 4 shows where enemy sappers made their entry onto the base for a deadly surprise attack.

Bric was the first family member to find his way to this community of special operators. In the late 1990s, shortly after the declassification of the battle, his daughter Erin found a story about it online. It was written by John Stryker Meyer, a Green Beret who'd become a career journalist and made it his life's mission to document their battles in Vietnam.

"Dad," Erin told her father, "I know what happened to Uncle Bill."

Bric tracked down Meyer, who put him in touch with Doug Godshall, a survivor of the Aug. 23, 1968 attack. Godshall was Bric's brother's best friend and among the last men to see him alive.

When it came time to organize the memorial, Steve Bric was there to help contact families.

Those present at the breakfast had not been easy to track down. It took a handful of men who survived the battle and months of research and outreach by Bonnie Cooper, a former Army intelligence analyst and a Special Forces wife who saw an online post about the group looking for family members and volunteered to help. She

tracked down families who'd had no contact with the Special Operations community for decades. Then, they reached out, one at a time.

'One foot in front of the other'

In 1968, a year that saw more American losses in Vietnam than any other, Special Forces reconnaissance teams fighting secret battles across enemy lines paid an even higher toll.

Their casualties reached nearly 100 percent, with few escaping injury and many being wounded more than once. The Military Assistance Command, Vietnam-Studies and Observation Group, or MACV-SOG, had the highest loss rate of any U.S. Army unit since the Civil War, said Godshall, an organizer of the memorial.

Godshall was among dozens of MACV-SOG visiting the base that night for a promotion board and grabbed a free bed in Bill Bric's hooch. When the explosions started, he saw Bric grab his weapon and run out into the spray of fire to take his position with his men on the perimeter.

As Bric ran past other barracks, he shouted warnings, drawing danger to himself but alerting many sleeping soldiers to the attack. Even after being knocked down by an explosion, he got up and opened a burst of fire that killed an enemy soldier before being shot and killed, according to the citation for the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor he was posthumously awarded Sept. 12, 1968.

The special operators who survived the attack shook off their many losses and got back to work. The families at home buried their young men in quiet solitude, with little acknowledgement.

"Though we moved on, the accumulation of these missing men took up residence in our memories, and never left," Thompson said. He told the 300 people who attended the memorial, "For me, it was 16 more men, stacked away somewhere on top of the others who had vanished."

"Meanwhile, back home, 11 wives were left as widows; 14 sons and nine daughters lost their fathers; 14 boys and girls lost their brothers; 27 fathers and mothers lost a son, and life went back to normal for the rest of the community."

"But not for you," he continued. "After the casualty assistance team departed, they had to figure out how to put food on the table. It was head down, one foot in front of the other. And you grieved."

But on this October day, their tears were more joyful.

"There was something about walking into that room with all those guys cheering for the families," Steve Bric said. "It was a way of getting peace — really at peace with it."

The survivors

Pat Watkins looked around the room. All these years later, it was still hard for him to understand what the families had gone through. He's often taken it on himself to speak to the widow of a lost comrade, but he never felt like he had the right words.

SEE PAGE 7

MILITARY

FROM PAGE 6

Much the same, the widows and siblings and children will never quite grasp the insanity of the clandestine war. How adrenaline, drive and steely nerves gave the special operatives such an unshakable determination to face death no matter how many times it came calling.

Watkins went to Vietnam in 1967 with 16 people. He came back in 1968 with four, three of them wounded, he said. He had been wounded twice.

He was summoned from Phu Bai to Danang for the promotion board. He had gone to FOB 4, sitting as it did at the foot of the mountain, the largest and tallest chain known as the Marble Mountains. But to the men at FOB 4, that peak was Marble Mountain, caves and tunnels up there were known hideouts for the enemy sappers. The Americans long suspected that the monastery in the mountains had become an enemy haven, but because it was sacred ground, the Americans were prohibited from raiding it.

Already a seasoned fighter, Watkins would spend 23 Aug. 1968 bleeding from repeated grenade explosions — including one in which he jumped on a wounded colleague to protect him — dodging bullets and, armed with a 45 mm pistol, killing more sappers than one man should be able to. Within the chaos he created order: organizing a group of men to try to defend their area before moving on to the tactical operations center, where the communications guys — none of them combat fighters — were under heavy attack.

It was a long, bloody night.

For many, many years, the survivors spoke of it only among themselves, offering pieces to grieving families. Some of the men who fell were quickly chosen for medals. But the living received no medals for that battle beyond Purple Hearts — 66 from that night alone.

The battle would remain classified until 1992, but by then the survivors had scattered. It was only much later, after former MACV-SOG lobbed incessantly that higher medals were finally issued — 24 with the valor designation. Watkins received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second-highest military award.

The survivors have speculated for years that the battle went unpublicized so long due in part to the well-known shortcomings in base security that had left it vulnerable. Gene Pugh, who was a communications operator, recalled that he took in CIA messages Aug. 19 and 20 that warned of imminent ground attack. It was only a few years ago that he and Bill Barclay compared notes, and they discovered that Barclay took in the same message Aug. 22, just hours before the attack. But the base commander never acted on the warnings, they said.

Bonnie Cooper, who spoke with every living survivor and family member before the memorial, said she gleaned from the men that the beach entrance to the camp, which was used by the locals, was known as a weak point. People often came in without being checked and the fence was not strong. Sand had blown off the claymore mines planted on the



ABOVE PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY TRIMBLE; RIGHT PHOTO BY DIANNA CAHN/Stars and Stripes

Green Beret Staff Sgt. Larry Trimble, bottom left and the South Vietnamese reconnaissance team he led in 1968 pose for a picture. Trimble led the men in a fierce battle on Marble Mountain against North Vietnamese forces, destroying their mortars during a major attack on the U.S. base down below.

beach as perimeter protection, exposing them for all to see.

"It was just terrible security and everybody kind of knew it," she said. "I think the reason it didn't get the attention it should have was basically embarrassing. Heads should have rolled."

Several wondered aloud how dozens of special operators could be brought together for a promotion board in the middle of combat. The camp, which Cooper's research indicates housed 89 men, had between 140 and 160 that night.

"A fiasco," Watkins said.

"Stupid," Godshall said.

Whatever the reason, the greatest loss to Special Forces in a single battle remained secret, and for a long time, unacknowledged.

"There was no 24-hour news cycle," Godshall told those in the breakfast room.

"There was no acknowledgement from the White House, the Defense Department of this awful tragedy, and the Gold Star families were left to grieve in silence without any knowledge of the incredible service that their sons and brothers and siblings were performing under horrific circumstances."

One by one, Godshall called each family in the room up to the podium to receive a plaque and coin. More often than not, as they sat down, Watkins walked over and put his hand on a someone's shoulder.

"I wanted them to know that we as a group didn't feel they died in vain," he said.

"You've heard this a hundred times. Soldiers fight for each other."

Unfinished business

Dan Thompson shared one final story with the group.

Something, he said, drove him to make his way back to Marble Mountain in 1994. So he went to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, made rubbings of the names of the men who were lost there and took them with him.

He found a monk who had lived on the mountain since 1968, who agreed to perform a "calling of the dead" ceremony to help the souls of those who died violently find peace and move on.

Each name was called, a bell



Cathy and Steve Bric, whose brother Bill was one of 16 Green Berets killed in the Aug. 23, 1968, attack, hold plaques given to them at a memorial for the families on Oct. 17.

Survivors and family members share their stories, memories stripes.com/vietnam68

was rung and a table was set for each man with a bowl of steaming rice, flowers and a lighted candle. The monk burned the rubbings.

The next day he and the monk climbed the mountain and scattered some of the ashes. Thompson brought the rest home in an envelope, where it sat in a file for many years.

"But I didn't have the sense of resolution I expected," he said during his presentation.

This year, he placed the ashes and other artifacts in a metal box, which Bonnie Cooper covered with pictures. On 23 Aug. 2018, at the Wall in Washington, he called each man's name, rang a bell and placed the box at panel 47 W, between the names of the men who died at Marble Mountain.

A bugler played taps.

Thompson finished his story. He and Godshall stood at attention at the back of the room, eyes glistening as a video of their ceremony filled the screens.

OK to remember

Afterward, families and survivors sat for hours, telling and hearing stories, remembering.

Gene Pugh sat with the Rickmers brothers. Mike Rickmers looks just like his dad, Pugh said.

Steve Bric's daughter Erin asked her Aunt Cathy what Uncle Bill was like. After all these years, she finally felt that was OK to ask.

Kind, Cathy Bric said. He had

lots of friends. He always had a girlfriend. People liked him. He signed up right after high school without asking their parents. He was her best friend.

She felt honored by the memorial, she said, like she was part of something.

"I think it's OK to look back and remember," she added.

Nearby, Mary Welch and Ronnie Morton sat a table with former MACV-SOG Loren Yaeger, who showed pictures on his computer.

He told Mary how he was in the building and awoke to explosions. Like other veteran combatants, he knew to jump under his bed and pull his mattress over him. He saw a sapper inside the building and yelled at Donald Welch to wake up.

Before Welch could get out of bed, the sapper threw a grenade. When Yaeger awoke, rafters were on fire and falling and the wall near his bed was gone.

"The only thing left in that room was me," Yaeger told her.

At Donald's funeral, his body had been so fragile that his casket had to have a glass shield, Mary recalled. She never learned the details. She only knew she'd been unable to touch him or hold his hand or give him a last kiss.

"To me, it was just heart-wrenching to know that he wasn't able to get out of his bed and run for cover — that he was killed instantly when that grenade or whatever went off," she said.

The breakfast was a way to finally give him a proper goodbye, she said.

"That's what we've been waiting for all this time."

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NATION

Faulty bomb elevators make for rough going in aircraft carrier deal

BY TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg

The new head of the Senate Armed Services panel says he's leery of backing the Pentagon's plan to buy two aircraft carriers in one contract so long as contractor Huntington Ingalls Industries is struggling to fix the elevators needed to lift bombs from below deck.

"I think the case for two right now is weaker because of the lack of success in getting everything working" on the USS Gerald R. Ford, the first vessel in the new class of carriers, Sen. James Inhofe said in an interview. The Oklahoma Republican spoke after joining Navy officials in a visit Monday to the Huntington Ingalls shipyard in Newport News, Va.

Inhofe recalled that his last such visit was in 2015, when the Navy said that the \$13 billion Ford was on the cusp of delivery. It was delivered in May 2017, but the contractor hasn't completed installing, testing and certifying its 11 munitions elevators.

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer told reporters in August that the elevators are "our open Achilles Heel."

The Navy plans to complete installation and testing of the 11 elevators before the Ford completes its post-delivery shake-down phase in July, Capt. Danny Hernandez, a Navy spokesman, said in an email. Six will also be certified for use by then, but five won't be completed until after July, he said. "A dedicated team is engaged on these efforts and will accelerate this certification work and schedule where feasible," he said.

Huntington spokeswoman Beci Brenton said via email that company officials had a "very productive meeting" with Inhofe that included both the elevators and benefits of a two-carrier contract.

The elevators' completion "has been delayed due to a number of first-in-class issues associated with the first-time installation, integration and test of this new technology," she said. "However, we are making substantial progress in resolving the remaining technical challenges."

Even as the Ford's tardy elevator installations are underway, the Navy is working with Huntington Ingalls to determine by the end of this month an estimate of potential savings from putting the third and fourth aircraft carriers in the class on a single contract. The second carrier, the USS John F. Kennedy, is already under construction.

The Navy has said savings on a two-for-one carrier contract could exceed \$2.5 billion. A two-carrier contract would be a financial boon to Huntington Ingalls, the nation's sole maker of nuclear aircraft carriers. Brenton, the Huntington Ingalls spokeswoman, said such a move would allow the company to "buy materials in



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., says he'll confer closely with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on the Pentagon's plan to buy two aircraft carriers in one contract.

quantity and phase work more efficiently," while delaying the decision would "further weaken a fragile industrial base."

"I'm not opposed to it at this point," Inhofe said in the interview on Monday. "We have a need for two carriers — that's what," he said, adding, "If this were a first delay I wouldn't be as concerned."

The carriers may prove a test case for how aggressively Inhofe will pursue oversight of major defense programs, a trademark of his predecessor, the late Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Congress gave the Navy authority in this year's defense policy bill to pursue the two-carrier contract pending approval by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. That gives lawmakers like Inhofe less leverage to slow a deal.

But Inhofe said he'll confer closely with Mattis and convey his concerns. "He is also one we can talk to," he said. "I always done very well dealing with Mattis."

During the shipyard visit, Inhofe said, "They spent most of their time down there telling me what a great thing" the carrier is, "and I'm sure it is." The \$8.5 billion Ford carrier class is designed with major changes over the current Nimitz-class carriers, such as a catapult system that's electromagnetic rather than steam-driven. But the new technology has had major reliability flaws.

In a Thanksgiving call to U.S. servicemembers overseas, President Donald Trump brought up his frequent complaint about the new system. "Steam is very reliable, and the electromagnetic — I mean unfortunately, you have to be Albert Einstein to really work it properly," he said.

Navy officials told Inhofe the launch system has been fixed, citing more than 700 successful launches. "All that's great and good," Inhofe said. "But still, the elevators still don't work."

"So I feel a little uncomfortable saying, 'Let's go ahead and let's get two and everything is going to be fine,'" he said.

Mattis OKs deployment extension for border GIs

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has approved a request from the Department of Homeland Security to keep active-duty troops deployed to the U.S.-Mexico border through Jan. 31, Pentagon officials announced Tuesday.

About 5,400 troops are deployed at the southern border in Texas, Arizona and California to support Border Patrol agents protecting against illegal immigration, said Lt. Col. Jamie Davis, a Defense Department spokesman. The number of troops to remain at the border was not provided

Tuesday by the Pentagon.

It was previously announced that troops would return home by Dec. 15.

Deployed since late October, servicemembers have worked to "harden" the border with coiled razor wire barriers. Military police, who already carry a weapon as part of their day-to-day assignments, were granted authorization in late November to provide force protection for the Customs and Border Protection agents they are supporting.

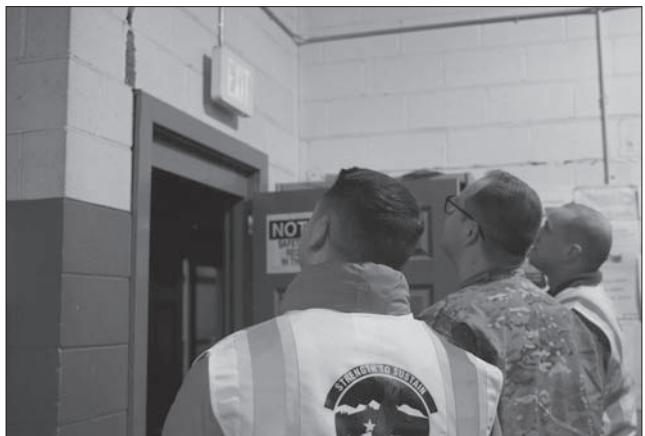
The military mission will continue to provide limited aviation, engineering, medical and mili-

tary police resources, Davis said.

During the past few weeks, portions of a migrant caravan made up of thousands of Central Americans have begun to arrive at the border, primarily in Tijuana, Mexico, near the border with California. Arrivals are expected to continue.

The caravan has remained mostly peaceful except for violent demonstrations on both sides of the border on Nov. 25 at the San Ysidro Port of Entry, near San Diego. Border Patrol agents broke up crowds using tear gas.

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CRYSTAL A. JENKINS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Air Force Senior Airman Randal Herrington, Tech. Sgt. Cody Luginbill and Staff Sgt. Nicholas Pratt conduct an expedient building inspection at the Navy Supervision of Salvage maintenance shop at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, on Tuesday, four days after an earthquake hit the base.

Hospital on Alaska base suffers millions of dollars in damages from earthquake

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Medical facilities at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska sustained millions of dollars in damages last week from a massive earthquake, with one facility destroyed and another suffering equipment losses, the base medical group commander said Tuesday.

"We have probably about \$7 million worth of damage that we're going to have to work on in the next several months," Col. Mark Lamey, acting 673rd Medical Group commander, said during a town hall meeting about installation services after the

magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit Friday.

The installation is still "providing all the health care capability sets that we've always had, minus a couple things," he said.

Some services cannot be performed due to some medical equipment needing to be replaced or recalibrated, such as machines used for laser eye surgeries.

Their flight medicine building, which focuses on pilot and air crew medical readiness, was "completely devastated," Lamey said.

"The interior is destroyed and so we've had to relocate those functions" to the family health clinic, he said. Their occupational

medicine and deployment health operations have also been relocated to another building on base.

There was also a loss to routine appointments since the earthquake. Lamey said he is looking into extending their hours to provide care to the community.

The Glenn Highway, a main road leading to the base, was also damaged in several places, so the installation is trying to stagger when people come on the base for work, according to Lt. Col. John Ross, a spokesman for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and the 673rd Air Base Wing.

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GEORGE H.W. BUSH 1924-2018

Farewell to 'last great soldier-statesman'

Dignitaries, citizens pay final tribute to former president

BY CALVIN WOODWARD,
LAURIE KELLMAN
AND ASHRAF KHALIL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — George H. W. Bush was celebrated with high praise and loving humor Wednesday as the nation bade farewell to the man who was America's 41st president and the last to fight for the U.S. in wartime. Three former presidents looked on at Washington National Cathedral and a fourth — George W. Bush — prepared to eulogize his dad.

The congregation, filled with foreign leaders and diplomats, Americans of high office and others touched by Bush's life, rose for the arrival of the casket, accompanied by clergy of faiths from around the world. In their row together, President Donald Trump and former Presidents Barack Obama, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton stood with their spouses and all placed their hands over their hearts.

Bush was "the last great soldier-statesman," presidential historian Jon Meacham said in his eulogy, "our shield" in dangerous times. On a light note, he added that Bush, campaigning in a crowd in a department store, once shook hands with a mannequin. Rather than flushing in embarrassment, he simply cracked, "Never know. Gotta ask."

Meacham also praised Bush's call to volunteerism — his "1,000 points of light" — placing it alongside Abraham Lincoln's call to honor "the better angels of our nature" in the American rhetorical canon. Meacham called those lines "companion verses in America's national hymn."

Trump had mocked "1,000 points of light" last summer at a rally, saying "What the hell is that? Has anyone even figured that one out? And it was put out by a Republican, wasn't it?"

The national funeral capped three days of remembrance in Washington before Bush's remains return to Texas on Wednesday for a burial Thursday.

A military band played "Hail to the Chief" as Bush's casket was carried down the steps of the U.S. Capitol, where he had laid in state. Family members looked on as servicemen fired off a cannon salute.

His hearse was then driven in a motorcade to the cathedral ceremony, slowing in front of the White House. Bush's route was lined with people much of the way, bundled in winter hats and taking photos.

Waiting for his arrival inside, Trump shook hands with Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama, who greeted him by saying "Good morning." Trump did not shake hands with Bill



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Former President George W. Bush speaks during the state funeral for his father, former President George H.W. Bush, at the National Cathedral in Washington on Wednesday.



ALEX BRANDON, POOL/AP

From left, President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump, former President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, former President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former President Jimmy Carter listen as former President George W. Bush speaks at the state funeral for former President George H.W. Bush.

and Hillary Clinton, who looked straight ahead.

Bill Clinton and Michelle Obama smiled and chatted as music played. Carter was seated silently next to Hillary Clinton in the cavernous cathedral. Obama cracked up laughing at someone's quip. Vice President Mike Pence shook Carter's hand.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that the day marked "a celebration for a great man who has led a long and distinguished life." Trump and his wife took their seats after the others, briefly greeting the Obamas seated next to them.

Also expected in the invitation-only crowd: Mike Lovejoy, a Kennebunkport electrician and fix-it man who has worked at Bush's Maine summer estate since 1990

and says he was shocked and heartened to be asked to come.

On Tuesday, soldiers, citizens in wheelchairs and long lines of others on foot wound through the Capitol Rotunda to view Bush's casket and honor a president whose legacy included World War II military service and a landmark law affirming the rights of the disabled.

Former Sen. Bob Dole, a compatriot in war, peace and political struggle, steered himself out of his wheelchair and saluted his old friend and one-time rival.

Bush and Dole, now 95, had many points of intersection over the years.

They were fellow World War II veterans, Republican Party leaders, fierce rivals for the 1988

Republican presidential nomination won by Bush ("Stop lying about my record," Dole snapped at Bush) and skilled negotiators. Dole, an Army veteran hit by German machine-gun fire in Italy, has gone through life with a disabled right arm. Bush, a Navy pilot, survived a bail-out from his stricken aircraft over the Pacific and an earlier crash landing.

On Tuesday, Dole was helped out of his wheelchair by an aide, slowly steadied himself and saluted Bush with his left hand, his chin quivering.

After the national funeral service at the cathedral, Bush's remains will be returned to Houston to lie in repose at St. Martin's Episcopal Church before burial Thursday at his family plot on the presidential library grounds at Texas A&M University in College Station. His final resting place will be alongside Barbara Bush, his wife of 73 years who died in April, and Robin Bush, the daughter they lost to leukemia in 1953 at age 3.

Trump ordered the federal government closed Wednesday for a national day of mourning. Flags on public buildings are flying at half-staff for 30 days.

As at notable moments in his life, Bush brought together Republicans and Democrats in his death, and not only the VIPs.

Members of the public who never voted for the man waited in the same long lines as the rest, attesting that Bush possessed the dignity and grace that deserved to be remembered by their presence on a cold overcast day in the capital.

"I'm just here to pay my respects," said Jane Hernandez, a retired physician in the heavily

Democratic city and suburbs. "I wasn't the biggest fan of his presidency, but all in all he was a good, sincere guy doing a really hard job as best he could."

Bush's service dog, Sully, was taken to the viewing too — his main service these last months since Barbara Bush's death in April being to rest his head on her husband's lap. Service dogs are trained to do that.

The CIA also honored Bush, the only spy chief to become president, as three agency directors past and present joined the public in the viewing.

In the midst of the period of mourning, first lady Melania Trump gave Laura Bush, one of her predecessors, a tour of holiday decorations at the White House, a "sweet visit during this somber week," as Laura Bush's Instagram account put it. And the Trumps visited members of the Bush family at the Blair House presidential guesthouse, where they are staying. Former President George W. Bush and his wife greeted the Trumps outside before everyone went in for the private, 20-minute visit.

Although Trump attended Bush's service, he was not among the eulogists. They were, in addition to Bush's eldest son, Alan Simpson, the former senator and acerbic wit from Wyoming; Brian Mulroney, the former Canadian prime minister who also gave a eulogy for Ronald Reagan; and Meacham.

People lined up before dawn to pay respects to the 41st president, a son and father of privilege now celebrated by everyday citizens for his common courtesies and depth of experience.

"He was so qualified, and I think he was just a decent man," said Sharon Terry, touring Washington with friends from an Indianapolis garden club. Said her friend Sue Miller, also in line for the viewing: "I actually think I underestimated him when he was in office. My opinion of him went up seeing how he conducted himself as a statesman afterward."

Fred Curry, one of the few blacks in line, is a registered Democrat from Hyattsville, Md., who voted for Bush in 1988, the election won by the one-term president. "Honestly, I just liked him," he said. "He seemed like a sincere and decent man, and you couldn't argue with his qualifications."

Dignitaries had come forward on Monday, too, to honor the Texan whose service to his country extended three quarters of a century, from World War II through his final years as an advocate for volunteerism and relief for people displaced by natural disaster. Bush, 94, died Friday.

Bush's death reduces membership in the ex-presidents' club to four: Carter, Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama.

NATION



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks to reporters after a closed-door security briefing Tuesday by CIA Director Gina Haspel on the slaying of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and involvement of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Senators point to Saudi prince after CIA briefing

By MARY CLARE JALONICK AND LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Breaking with President Donald Trump, senators leaving a briefing with CIA Director Gina Haspel on Tuesday said they are even more convinced that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was involved in the death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said he believes if the crown prince were put on trial, a jury would find him guilty in "about 30 minutes."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who demanded the briefing with Haspel, said there is "zero chance" the crown prince wasn't involved in Khashoggi's death.

"There's not a smoking gun. There's a smoking saw," Graham said, referring to reports from the Turkish government that said Saudi agents used a bone saw to dismember Khashoggi after he was killed in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Graham said "you have to be willfully blind" not to conclude that this was orchestrated and organized by people under the crown prince's command.

Trump has equivocated over who is to blame for the killing, frustrating senators who are now look-

ing for ways to punish the longtime Middle East ally. The Senate overwhelmingly voted last week to move forward on a resolution curtailing U.S. backing for the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

It's unclear whether or how that resolution will move forward. The vote last week allowed the Senate to debate the measure, which could happen as soon as next week, but senators are still in negotiations on whether to amend it and what it should say.

Haspel met with a small group of senators, including leadership and the chairmen and top Democrats on the key national security committees, after senators in both parties complained that she didn't attend an all-Senate briefing with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis last week.

Pompeo and Mattis tried to dissuade senators from punishing Saudi Arabia with the resolution, saying U.S. involvement in the Yemen conflict is central to the Trump administration's broader goal of containing Iranian influence in the Middle East.

Human rights groups say the war is wreaking havoc on the country and subjecting civilians to indiscriminate bombing.

Turkey seeks arrest of prince's former aides

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Turkey is seeking the arrest of two former aides to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman who were dismissed amid the fallout from the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi.

Turkey's official Anadolu news agency said a court approved arrest warrants for former royal court adviser Saad al-Qahtani and former deputy intelligence chief Ahmed al-Assiri, who are believed to have overseen the team that killed and dismembered Khashoggi at the kingdom's Istanbul consulate in October. Saudi authorities say the agents who killed Khashoggi exceeded their authority.

The Istanbul chief prosecutor's Tuesday court application says there is "strong suspicion" the two aides were involved in planning the killing.

Turkey has been seeking to extradite 18 suspects, including 15 members of the alleged assassination squad. The government said a trial in Turkey would provide transparency and accountability but Saudi authorities have not fully cooperated.

Speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government protocol, a senior Turkish official familiar with the investigation said the arrest warrants reflect Turkey's view that Saudi Arabia won't hold the suspects accountable.

"The international community seems to doubt Saudi Arabia's commitment to prosecute this heinous crime," the official said, adding that by extraditing all suspects to Turkey, "Saudi authorities could address those concerns."

Saudi Arabia has detained 21 people and says it is seeking the death penalty for five.

Flynn: His testimony points to involvement by Trump's inner circle in Russia probe

FROM FRONT PAGE

It's unclear if Trump will now turn his fury on Flynn, with whom Trump bonded during the 2016 campaign.

Trump has repeatedly lamented how Flynn's life has been destroyed by the special counsel's probe. At one point, he tried to protect Flynn by asking former FBI Director James Comey to drop an investigation into his alleged false statements, according to a memo Comey wrote after the February 2017 encounter.

That episode, which Trump has denied, is among those under scrutiny by Mueller as he probes whether the president attempted to obstruct the Russia investigation.

Federal sentencing guidelines recommend between zero and six months in prison, and Mueller's office said Flynn's cooperation merits no prison time.

Prosecutors said Flynn's early cooperation was "particularly valuable" because he was "one of the few people with long-term and firsthand insight" into the events under investigation. They noted his cooperation likely inspired other crucial witnesses to cooperate.

Mueller's team credited Flynn with serving 33 years in the U.S. Army, including five years in combat. But prosecutors also said the long military and government service that sets him apart from all other defendants in the investigation made his deception more troublesome.

"The defendant's extensive government service should have made him particularly aware of the harm caused by providing false information to the government, as well as the rules governing work performed on behalf of a foreign government," they wrote.

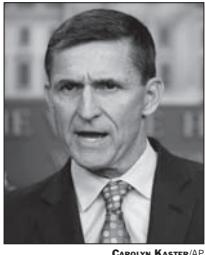
Flynn's case has stood apart from those of other Trump associates, who have aggressively criticized the investigation, sought to undermine it and, in some cases, been accused of lying even after agreeing to cooperate.

Flynn's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, is accused of repeatedly lying to investigators since his guilty plea. Another Trump campaign aide, George Papadopoulos, is serving a 14-day prison sentence and, though he pleaded guilty to the same crime as Flynn, was denied probation because prosecutors said his cooperation was lacking.

But Flynn has largely remained out of the public eye, appearing only sporadically in media interviews or campaign events, and avoided criticizing the Mueller probe despite widespread encouragement from his supporters to go on the offensive.

Another highly anticipated filing is expected Friday from Mueller's office, detailing the lies that prosecutors say Manafort told them after his guilty plea.

In Tuesday's filing, prosecutors emphasized that the conduct



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Former national security adviser Michael Flynn remained out of the public eye during the Mueller probe.

Flynn lied about cuts to the core of the investigation into any coordination between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin.

Flynn's false statements stemmed from a Jan. 24, 2017, interview with the FBI about his interactions with Sergey Kislyak, Russia's then-ambassador to the U.S., as the Obama administration was levying sanctions on the Kremlin in response to election interference.

Mueller's office blamed Flynn for other senior Trump transition officials making misleading public statements about his contacts with Russia, an assertion that matches the White House's explanation of Flynn's firing.

As part of his plea deal, Flynn said members of Trump's inner circle, including his son-in-law and White House aide Jared Kushner, were involved in — and at times directing — his actions in the weeks before Trump took office.

According to court papers, in mid-December 2016, Kushner directed Flynn to reach out to several countries, including Russia, about a U.N. Security Council resolution regarding Israeli settlements.

Flynn also admitted that later in December 2016 he asked Kislyak not to retaliate in response to the Obama administration sanctions, something he initially told FBI agents he didn't do. Flynn made the request after discussing it with deputy national security adviser K.T. McFarland, who was at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort, and was told that Trump's transition team did not want Russia to escalate the situation.

Flynn was forced to resign his post on Feb. 13, 2017, after news reports revealed that Obama administration officials had warned the Trump White House about Flynn's false statements. The White House has said Flynn misled officials — including Vice President Mike Pence — about the content of his conversations.

NATION



NOAH BERGER/AP

Sara Sullivan recovers a figurine Tuesday from her Magalia, Calif., home, which was destroyed by the Camp Fire.

Search for wildfire missing winds down in Northern Calif.

BY JANIE HAR AND PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The search for people unaccounted for after the deadliest U.S. wildfire in at least a century is winding down in Northern California, with just 11 names left on a fluctuating list that once approached 1,300 and prompted fears that hundreds had died in the flames.

The declining number released late Monday came as a relief in the Paradise area as it reeks from the wildfire that killed at least 85 people and destroyed nearly 14,000 homes.

Families, friends and even long-ago acquaintances have been peppering social media with pleas for help finding people. Sometimes they had no more than a first name to work with.

Authorities now say they have located more than 3,100 people who had been reported as unaccountable at some point during the catastrophe.

"I think that's a pretty remarkable number at this point," Butte County Sheriff Kory Hora said.

He also has revised the death toll down to 85 from 88, saying medical examiners determined several bags of human remains were duplicates.

The Associated Press has been scouring the list of people unaccounted for and found duplicate names, misspellings and people who don't appear to exist.

People who were previously identified as dead or alive by family or friends have at times reappeared on the list.

The list of names released each day frustrated those looking for people and baffled residents

whose names appeared even though they weren't missing.

Horne repeatedly said he released the list — no matter how long at times — to reach those who may not know people were looking for them.

He said it was never intended to be a definitive account of people who were missing or possibly dead.

The AP located several people, including a couple who had descended from the fire zone area for a previously planned vacation in Hawaii.

Patrick Holden and Nancy Barnes fled their Paradise home at the same time as most of their neighbors. They spent five terrifying hours on Nov. 8 making the normally 30-minute drive to nearby Chico.

The next day, they identified themselves as safe through Facebook, alerted their friends and then, realizing that their home was burned to the ground, headed to Hawaii for their vacation.

Holden was stunned to see his name pop up on the list two weeks after the disaster. The couple appeared on a list released Sunday as "Patrick and Nancy Holton" of Paradise.

"Everybody in the car club, the bridge club and the Paradise Newcomers Club knew we were OK," Holden said Monday from his timeshare in Maui. "I don't know how we got on the list now."

His daughter, Amanda Lunford, said a former co-worker of her father might have added him. Holden said he hasn't called the Butte County Sheriff's Office to let them know about the error because they're busy.

Justice Department charges 4 in Panama Papers scheme

The Washington Post

The Justice Department charged for people Tuesday with scheming for decades to hide tens of millions of dollars from the Internal Revenue Service — the first U.S. indictment over an alleged tax-evasion scheme revealed in 2014 through the Panama Papers.

The four people charged include a former investment manager, a former U.S. resident, an American accountant and a Panamanian lawyer who once worked for the firm at the center of the case, Mossack Fonseca.

The Panama Papers is the name given to a trove of more than 11 million documents from the Mossack Fonseca firm which a consortium of journalists made public in April 2016, leading to criminal investigations throughout Europe into possible tax evasion and money laundering.

The 11-count indictment unsealed in New York marks the first time the U.S. government has charged anyone with tax crimes related to the firm — and authorities suggested others could soon be charged.

"More investigations are on the way," said IRS criminal investigations chief Don Fort.

The head of the Justice Department's criminal division, Brian Benczkowski, issued a warning to law firms, asset managers and accountants that they can be arrested if they help their clients evade taxes.

"The charges announced today demonstrate our commitment to prosecute professionals who facilitate financial crimes across international borders and the tax cheats who use their services," he said.

The charges include wire fraud, money laundering, conspiracy, conspiracy to defraud the United States and false statements.

The indictment suggests investigators were looking at Mossack Fonseca's activities years before the Panama Papers were released, noting that one unnamed client grew uneasy about the arrangement and went to authorities in 2013 under a voluntary program to report previously undeclared assets being held in overseas accounts.

That client is identified in court papers as a U.S. citizen living in Manhattan who made millions of dollars as a liaison between investors and money managers and for years hid that money from the

IRS.

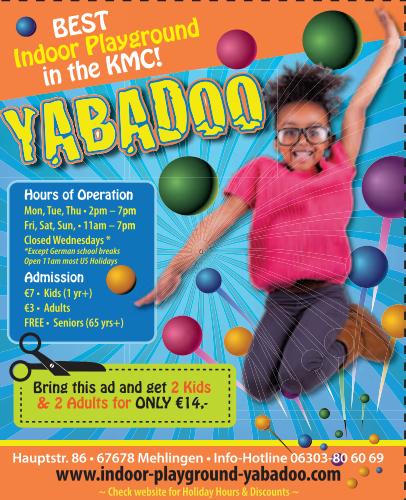
The indictment describes an ambitious effort by Mossack Fonseca and people associated with the firm to hide assets from the IRS while still giving their American clients access to the money the taxman couldn't reach.

The Justice Department charged Ramsey Owens, a lawyer who worked for Mossack Fonseca, who remains at large. Also charged was Dirk Brauer, who worked as an asset manager for Mossack Asset Management, a company closely affiliated with Mossack

Fonseca. Brauer was arrested in Paris last month. Richard Gaffey, an accountant in Massachusetts, was arrested Tuesday morning, and Harald Von Der Goltz, a former U.S. resident now living in London, was arrested Monday.

The indictment charges that Owens, Brauer and Gaffey spent years setting up complex entities allowing their clients to hide and invest millions of dollars controlled by American clients who did not report that money to the IRS.


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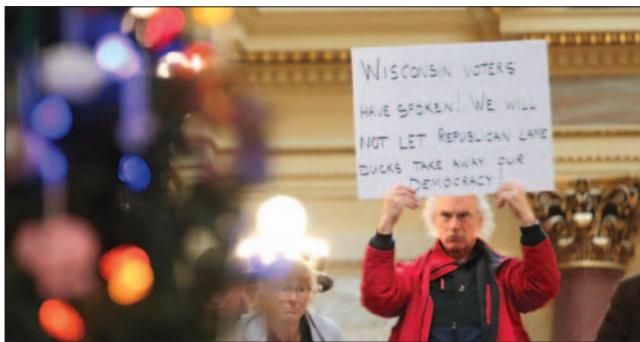


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NATION



Bob Kinosian, from Wauwatosa, Wis., protests Republicans' lame-duck bills during the state Christmas tree lighting ceremony in the state Capitol Rotunda in Madison, Wis., on Tuesday.

Wis. GOP's lame-duck bills seek to limit Dem's power

By SCOTT BAUER
AND TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin Republican lawmakers on Wednesday passed a series of bills to weaken the incoming Democratic governor and attorney general. Highlights of the sweeping legislation, which was approved in the lame-duck legislative session, include:

■ Limits early voting to no more than two weeks before an election.

■ Gives the Legislature's budget committee, rather than the attorney general, the power to withdraw the state from lawsuits. That would prevent Democratic Attorney General-elect Josh Kaul from withdrawing Wisconsin from a multistate lawsuit to re-

peal the federal Affordable Care Act.

■ Gives Republicans in the Legislature the majority of appointments to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., the state's quasi-private job-creation agency that Democratic Gov.-elect Tony Evers wants to reorganize.

■ Requires state health officials to implement a federal waiver allowing Wisconsin to require children under age 50 to work in order to receive health insurance through the Badger-Care Plus program. The legislation prevents Evers from seeking to withdraw the waiver request.

■ Eliminates the attorney general's solicitor general office. The office currently handles some of the highest-profile and most political lawsuits.

■ Requires all settlement

money the attorney general wins to go to the state's general fund rather than the state Justice Department.

■ Prohibits judges from giving greater weight to state agencies' interpretations of laws in court challenges.

■ Requires the governor to get permission from the Legislature before asking for changes in programs run jointly by the state and federal governments, limiting the governor's authority to run public benefits programs.

■ Reduces income tax rates next year to offset about \$60 million in online sales taxes from out-of-state retailers.

■ Requires the governor to get permission from the Legislature before he could ban guns in the state Capitol.

China gives few details on trade deal

Associated Press

BEIJING — China issued an upbeat but vague promise Wednesday to carry out a tariff cease-fire with Washington but gave no details that might dispel confusion about what Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump agreed to in Argentina.

China has yet to confirm Trump's claim that Beijing committed to cut auto tariffs and buy more American farm exports.

That, coupled with conflicting statements by Trump and U.S. officials, helped trigger a tumble in U.S. stock prices Tuesday amid doubt about the chances for a lasting settlement of a battle over technology that threatens to chill global economic growth.

“China will start from implementing specific issues on which consensus has been reached,

and the sooner, the better,” the Commerce Ministry said on its website.

The two sides have a “clear timetable and road map” for talks, the ministry said, but gave no details. The ministry didn’t respond to questions by phone and fax.

The Chinese silence prompted questions about what Trump said was a promise by Beijing to buy more American exports and negotiate over U.S. complaints that it steals American technology.

Stock markets rose Monday after U.S. officials touted the agreement as a historic breakthrough. But they plunged Tuesday after Trump called himself “Tariff Man” on Twitter and renewed threats of penalty duties.

By patient, said Ma Hong, a trade expert at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He said Chinese lead-

ers are right to move carefully as they deal with contentious details. The delay in talking “isn’t a sign of rejection, but of cautiousness,” said Ma. “The United States has put forward many demands, not all of them reasonable,” he said. Negotiations will proceed “step by step, not based on the rhythm of the United States.”

Trump is pressuring Beijing to roll back plans for state-led development of Chinese technology champions that Washington says violate its market-opening commitments.

Chinese leaders have offered to change some details of plans such as “Made in China 2025.” They have rejected pressure to scrap strategies they see as a path to prosperity and global influence, but foreign analysts say they might be starting to understand the depth of foreign opposition.

House GOP committee reports cyberbreach

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The National Republican Congressional Committee said Tuesday that it was hit with a “cyber intrusion” during the 2018 midterm campaigns and has reported the breach to the FBI.

The committee provided few details about the incident but said the intrusion was conducted by an “unknown entity.”

“The cybersecurity of the committee’s data is paramount, and upon learning of the intrusion, the NRCC immediately launched an internal investigation and notified the FBI, which is now investigating the matter,” spokesman Ian Prior said in a statement. “To protect the integrity of that investigation, the NRCC will offer no further comment on the incident.”

The FBI had no comment. Politico first reported the cyberbreach.

The severity and circumstances of the hacking weren’t made clear. Politically motivated cyberespionage is commonplace across the world, but Americans have become particularly alert to the possibility of digital interference

following the 2016 election. That hack is still fresh in the minds of many political operatives.

In March 2018, NRCC Chairman Steve Stivers said the committee hired multiple cybersecurity staffers to work with its candidates and promised to do more.

“We’re starting to advise campaigns, but we’re not ready to roll the whole thing out. We’re working on it,” Stivers said at the time. “We’re working on the technology-based stuff to try and make sure that we know what’s out there — which is hard, too — and then we try to defend against it the best we can.”

In August, Microsoft alerted the public to attempts by government-backed Russian hackers to target U.S. conservatives’ email by creating fake websites that appeared to belong to a pair of think tanks, the Hudson Institute and the International Republican Institute.

It also confirmed an attempt similarly attributed to Russian hackers to infiltrate the Senate computer network of Sen. Claire McCaskill, the Missouri Democrat who lost a re-election bid in November.



J. DAVID AKE/AP

Traffic streaks past the FBI headquarters building in Washington in 2017. The FBI is investigating a “cyber intrusion” reported by the National Republican Congressional Committee.

More US beef being recalled

Associated Press

NEW YORK — An Arizona company is expanding the scope of its recall of raw beef that could be contaminated with salmonella, federal officials said Tuesday.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said in a news release that a unit of Brazil's JBS is now recalling a total of more than 12 million pounds of raw beef that was shipped around the U.S.

According to officials, information obtained in three additional cases of sickened patients led to the identification of other ground beef products.

JBS Tolleson in Arizona al-

ready recalled about 7 million pounds of beef in October. Health officials say all the products up for recall have the USDA inspection number “EST. 267.”

“While no products in this expansion have been definitively linked to any illness, we have determined in consultation with USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) that this action is in the best interests of public health,” JBS said.

The products were packaged between late July and September. The USDA says all the potentially tainted products have been removed from retail stores.

WORLD

Dozens arrested in Italian mob crackdown

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Hundreds of police in Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands arrested at least 84 suspected mobsters and seized around \$2.3 million Wednesday in a series of coordinated raids targeting a powerful branch of the Italian mafia.

The raids were the culmination of an investigation code-named Pollino that was launched in 2016 against the 'Ndrangheta criminal group on allegations of cocaine trafficking, money laundering, bribery and violence, said Eurojust, the European prosecution agency that fights cross-border organized crime, which coordinated the operation.

Eurojust said the massive operation was the biggest of its kind in Europe. Some 4 tons of cocaine were traced during the two-year joint investigation.

Cocaine and ecstasy pills also were seized in Wednesday's raids.

Eurojust said Italian authorities arrested 41 suspects mainly in the southern regions of Calabria and Catanzaro.

US reopens diplomatic mission in Somalia

JOHANNESBURG — The United States says it has re-established a "permanent diplomatic presence" in Somalia for the first time in 27 years.

The State Department late Tuesday said "this historic event reflects Somalia's progress in recent years and is another step forward in formalizing U.S. diplomatic engagement in Mogadishu."

The U.S. closed its Somalia embassy in January 1991 as the country collapsed into civil war, with the military airlifting out the ambassador and others.

The U.S. formally recognized Somalia's new federal government in 2013 but has based its diplomatic mission in the capital of neighboring Kenya.

New Ambassador Donald Yamamoto arrived at the U.S. mission last month.

Body of missing Florida woman possibly found

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Costa Rican authorities said Tuesday that they found what appears to be the body of a missing South Florida woman who was on vacation in the Central American country to celebrate her 36th birthday and that a suspect had been detained.

Walter Espinoza, head of the country's Judicial Investigation Department, said officials were comparing fingerprints to confirm the identity. An autopsy revealed that the victim suffered a blunt force wound to the head and lacerations on the neck and arms, he said.

A Facebook page set up by friends of the missing woman, Carla Stefanik, said family members went to the morgue in San Jose on Tuesday to identify the body but were turned away by local authorities.

Brexit debate enters 2nd round

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's House of Commons was opening round two Wednesday in a bruising battle between lawmakers and Prime Minister Theresa May's government over Brexit.

Lawmakers were holding the second of five days of debate on the government's divorce deal with the European Union before Parliament votes on Tuesday to accept or reject it.

May is struggling to keep the Brexit deal on track after her government was dealt a double blow by Parliament.

In a historic first, legislators on Tuesday found the government in contempt of Parliament for refusing to publish legal advice it received from the country's top law officer about the agreement.

The government argued that such advice is customarily kept secret. But it bowed to defeat Wednesday and released the reasoning from

Attorney General Geoffrey Cox.

The main thrust of Cox's advice was already known — the government released a 43-page document about it Monday in a bid to fend off the contempt motion. But the defeat demonstrated the fragility of May's government, which does not have a majority in Parliament.

The legal advice also has provided fuel to opponents of May's deal, who dislike a "backstop" provision in the agreement that would keep the country in a customs union with the EU to guarantee an open border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland.

The backstop is intended as a temporary measure, but pro-Brexit lawmakers say it



May

could leave Britain tied to the EU indefinitely and unable to strike new trade deals around the world.

The legal advice confirmed that Britain can't unilaterally opt out of the backstop, which requires agreement by both sides. Cox advised that there was a risk the U.K. might become stuck in "protracted and repeating rounds of negotiations."

Politicians on both sides of Britain's EU membership debate oppose the agreement that May struck with the bloc — pro-Brexit ones because it keeps Britain bound closely to the EU, and pro-EU politicians because it erects barriers between the U.K. and its biggest trading partner.

Most signs suggest the government is headed for defeat in next week's vote. That would leave the U.K. facing a messy, economically damaging "no-deal" Brexit on March 29 and could topple the prime minister, her government or both.



Courtesy of Dr. Wellington Andrade/AP

A baby girl born to a woman with a uterus transplanted from a deceased donor is seen in December 2017 at the Hospital das Clínicas of the University of São Paulo School of Medicine in São Paulo, Brazil.

First baby born using uterus transplanted from deceased donor

BY MARIA CHENG
Associated Press

LONDON — Brazilian doctors are reporting the world's first baby born to a woman with a uterus transplanted from a deceased donor.

Eleven previous births have used a transplanted womb but from a living donor, usually a relative or friend.

Experts said using uteruses from women who have died could make more transplants possible. Ten previous attempts using deceased donors in the Czech Republic, Turkey and the U.S. have failed.

The baby girl was delivered last December by a woman born without a uterus because of a rare syndrome. The woman — a 32-year-old psychologist — was initially apprehensive about the transplant, said Dr. Dani Eisenberg, the transplant team's lead doctor at the University of São Paulo School of Medicine.

"This was the most important thing in her life," he said. "Now

she comes in to show us the baby and she is so happy."

The woman became pregnant through in vitro fertilization seven months after the transplant. The donor was a 45-year-old woman who had three children and died of a stroke.

The recipient, who was not identified, gave birth by cesarean section. Doctors also removed the womb, partly so the woman would no longer have to take anti-rejection medicines. Nearly a year later, mother and baby are both healthy.

Two more transplants are planned as part of the Brazilian study. Details of the first case were published Tuesday in the medical journal *Lancet*.

Uterus transplantation was pioneered by Swedish doctor Mats Brannstrom, who has delivered eight children from women who got womb transplants from family members or friends. Two babies have been born at Baylor University Medical Center in Texas and one in Serbia, also from transplants from living donors.

France braces for more tax protests

BY SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

not properly redistributed," he told BFMTV station. "We obviously need to fight against this."

Meanwhile, high school students union FIDL called for a "massive and general mobilization" on Thursday and urged Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer to step down.

Put on the back foot, Philippe's government opened the door for more concessions as spokesman Benjamin Griveaux did not exclude bringing back a wealth tax that was slashed soon after Macron came to power in May 2017.

"If something isn't working, we're not dumb, we'll change it," Griveaux told RTL radio, adding that "the issue is not on the table for now."

Macron's popularity has slumped to new lows since the first "yellow vest" demonstrations took place on Nov. 17. The former investment banker, who was elected after campaigning for deep business economic reforms, is accused of being the "president for the rich" and of being estranged from the working classes.

Since returning from the G-20 summit in Argentina, Macron has either remained in his palace residence or shied away from speaking publicly about the protests that have created his biggest political crisis since taking office last May. On Tuesday night, he was booted and jeered as he traveled to a regional government headquarters that was torched by protesters last weekend.

By caving in to yellow vests' demands on fuel taxes, Macron also lost credibility in the fight against climate change after leading the way with an aggressive environmental agenda and promising to drastically cut carbon emissions.

President Donald Trump said Macron's decision to delay the tax increases justified his own decision to withdraw from an international climate accord.

FACES

Kevin Hart to host Academy Awards

Associated Press

Kevin Hart has a new job — he will host the 2019 Academy Awards, a role the prolific actor-comedian says fulfills a longtime dream.

Hart announced his selection for the 91st Oscars in an Instagram statement Tuesday. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences followed up with a tweet that welcomed him "to the family."

The announcement came hours after trade publication The Hollywood Reporter posted a story calling the Oscars host position "the least wanted job in Hollywood."

Hart clearly doesn't feel that way, writing on Instagram that it has been on his list of dream jobs for years. "The 2019 Oscars will be broadcast Feb. 24 statewide on ABC."

"I am blown away simply because this has been a goal on my list for a long time. To be able to join the legendary list of hosts that have graced this stage is unbelievable," Hart wrote. "I know my mom is smiling from ear to ear right now."

"I will be sure to make sure this year's Oscars are a special one," Hart wrote.

Hart takes over hosting duties from Jimmy Kimmel, who presided over the past two ceremonies, including 2016's fiasco that resulted

in the wrong best picture winner being announced.

Last year's ceremony was an all-time ratings low, and the film academy has announced a series of changes to the upcoming show. Those include shortening the broadcast to three hours, and also presenting certain categories during commercial breaks and broadcasting excerpts of those winners' speeches later in the show.

The 39-year-old Hart has become a bankable star with films such as "Ride Along," "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" and "Night School."



JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

Actor-comedian Kevin Hart will host the 2019 Academy Awards, which he says fulfills a lifelong dream.



Michael B. Jordan, left, and Chadwick Boseman face off in "Black Panther," which likely soon will be facing off against the year's top films for best picture and other categories at the Academy Awards.

'Black Panther' positioned to be a major Oscars player

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

"Black Panther" has, in a way, already been to the Oscars.

Much of the film's cast was eagerly highlighted at March's ceremony: a welcome splash of blockbuster luster at an Academy Awards that largely lacked it. "Black Panther" had at the time already been in theaters for a few weeks, leading host Jimmy Kimmel to note: "This is a night for positivity and our plan is to shine a light on a group of outstanding and inspiring films, each and every one of which got crushed by 'Black Panther' this weekend." Much of the audience either laughed or winced. (On Oscar Sunday alone, "Black Panther" grossed \$19.9 million.)

As Hollywood's awards season properly gets under way, "Black Panther" is poised to return to the Academy Awards, but this time as a nominee — and potentially a major one. Ryan Coogler's superhero sensation has already notched countless records, pulverized box-office myths and set new marks for inclusivity. And now, "Black Panther" is in line to shatter Oscar norms, too.

All of this year's contenders have by now screened, and Oscar prognosticators generally have "Black Panther" in, comfortably, as a best picture nominee. Both the pundit survey "Gurus of Gold" and Hollywood Reporter awards analyst Scott Feinberg place "Black Panther" fifth, behind front-runners "A Star Is Born," "Roma," "Green Book" and "The Favourite." Gold Derby slots "Black Panther" in at No. 7, still easily within the category's range of up to 10 nominees.

Much is still in flux in the Oscar race ahead of Thursday morning's Golden Globes nominations.

But unless something drastic happens, "Black Panther" will next month become the first comic book film to be nominated for best picture and easily Marvel Studios' most significant Oscar contender ever.

That's very good news for ABC's Feb. 24 telecast, which is coming off an all-time low of 26.5 million viewers. Some 55.2 million watched "Titanic" sweep the 1997 Oscars, and producers have long harbored dreams of another big-tear blockbuster pulling viewers to a broadcast increasingly dominated by independent films like "The Shape of Water," "Moonlight" and "Spotlight." Usually, bigger movies mean bigger ratings.

For the makers of "Black Panther," it's a new chapter for a film — with more than \$1.3 billion in ticket sales, the third-highest all-time domestic gross and the biggest box-office hit ever directed by a black man — that has already filled record books.

Few films will be watched more closely through awards season than "Black Panther," which is also in the running for Ruth Carter's costume design, the cinematography of Rachel Morrison (who last year became the first woman ever nominated in the category), Hannah Beachler's production design, Coogler's direction, the script by Joe Robert Cole and Coogler, Kendrick Lamar's song "All the Stars" and Michael B. Jordan's supporting roles.

While superhero films have dominated multiplexes for the past decade, the Oscars have been famously resistant to them. Ten years ago, "The Dark Knight" earned eight nominations but missed out on best picture, prompting the film academy to expand the category the following year.

'Crazy Rich Asians' fails to find audience in China

From wire services

Chinese audiences aren't exactly going nuts over the U.S. box office hit "Crazy Rich Asians," despite its all-Asian cast and theme of rising Asian prosperity.

Industry data show the film made just \$1.2 million over the three days of its initial release, far behind local productions in the world's second-largest movie market. That compared with the \$24.2 grossed by the Chinese crime drama "A Cool Fish," according to data from the consultancy Artisan Gateway cited by Variety, an industry journal.

Critic Shi Hang said Chinese audiences are so used to all-Asian productions that the casting didn't hold much novelty.

"What the public was excited about abroad was all-Asian faces, but, sorry, we watch all-Asian faces every day so it is less valuable here," Shi said.

The film's poor performance in China contrasts sharply with its near-rapturous reception in the U.S., where it was hailed as the first all-Asian box office smash.

The film's over-the-top displays of wealth and entitlement might also have been a turn-off for some viewers in a country where the widening gap between rich and poor rankles many.

The Warner Bros. breakout romantic comedy earned \$173 million in the U.S. and was a box office hit in Singapore, where it is set.

AFI Awards announces 2018 honorees

The American Film Institute announced 10 films and 10 television shows as honorees of the 2018 AFI Awards on Monday. "BlacKkKlansman," "Black Panther," "Eight Grade," "If Beale Street Could Talk," "The Favourite," "First Reformed," "Green Book," "Mary Poppins Returns," "A Quiet Place" and "A Star Is Born" were recognized as "culturally and artistically significant" films by the institute.

Netflix's "Roma," a Spanish-language film not eligible for the main list, was also recognized with an AFI Special Award, honoring films outside the Institute's criteria for American film.

On the television side, FX's "The Americans," "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story," "Atlanta" and "Pose," HBO's "Barry" and "Succession," AMC's "Better Call Saul," Netflix's "The Kominsky Method," Amazon Prime's "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," and NBC's "This Is Us" were recognized.

Other news

■ The International Animated Film Society announced its Annie nominations Monday. Pixar's "Incredibles 2" (11 nominations) and Disney Animation's "Ralph Breaks the Internet" (10 nods) leading the way, followed by Aardman Animations' "Early Man" and Sony's "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," which landed seven nominations each.

■ Cardi B is no longer feeling the love after little more than a year of marriage to rapper Offset. She posted a video on Instagram saying that "things just haven't been working out between us for a long time." The 26-year-old says, "I guess we just grew out of love, but we're not together anymore." Cardi B said it "might take time to get a divorce." The couple got married in September 2017 and had a baby girl in July.

■ "The Daily Show" host Trevor Noah has lost his voice. Comedian Mike Acosta delivered Noah's monologue for him Tuesday night. Acosta explained that Noah was under doctor's orders not to speak — or he would risk needing surgery. He didn't elaborate on what caused the problem or how long it might last.

■ Bruce Springsteen will not be touring with the E Street Band in 2019. Springsteen on Twitter that they hope to be back soon. But The Boss says he wants a break after his "Springsteen on Broadway" show wraps up on Dec. 15 and he's working on other projects.

■ Philip Bosco, the Tony Award-winning actor known for his roles in films "Working Girl" and "The Savages," died Monday. He was 88. Bosco was a Broadway veteran who won a Tony Award in 1989 for best actor for his role as the head of an opera company in the comedy "Lend Me a Tenor."

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JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes



An eye for combat: Showing the pathos of war

Public attention to Vietnam grew to a fever pitch as the conflict and casualties expanded in the late 1960s. U.S. newspapers and broadcasters invested heavily in their war coverage making stories from the battlefield a daily fixture.

Some of stories and images from Vietnam have left indelible impressions on the American psyche.

Malcolm Browne's Pulitzer-winning photograph of a monk's self-immolation in a Saigon street in 1963.

Nick Ut's 1972 image of a girl burned by napalm from the Associated Press.

Eddie Adams' photo of a police chief executing a Viet Cong prisoner.

An image by John Olson, a young photographer with Stars and Stripes, also became one of the most iconic photos of the Vietnam War. Olson spent five days with the Marines at the 1968 battle in Hue, one of more than 100 cities and villages that North Vietnamese forces struck with a surprise attack on the holiday known as Tet. It was the bloodiest single battle of the

Vietnam War

Olson was 20 when he took the iconic photo, showing wounded Marines on top of a converted tank used as a makeshift ambulance during the Battle of Hue. Mark Bowden, author of "Hue 1968: A Turning Point in the American War in Vietnam," described the photograph as an except in *Vanity Fair* magazine.

"With an artist's eye for composition,

Olson captured seven Marines in a tableau worthy of Rembrandt. The palette is one of dark, muddy greens and blues and browns in a grayish light, with shocking splashes of red. Under their helmets, the eyes of the men who face the camera are wide and anxious. They are looking past the photographer fearfully. One man has his entire face wrapped in a thick bandage, with his arm in a sling. Behind

him sits a Marine whose face isn't visible but whose bare leg is smeared with blood. The most striking figure, at the center of the shot, in the foreground, is supine. He has been shot through the center of his chest. He is pale, limp, and half-naked. His shirt has been stripped away and his wound roughly bandaged. His head is the closest thing to the viewer in the frame. We see him upside-down, his eyes closed beneath dark eyebrows, his head resting on a wooden door that has been used as a makeshift stretcher. He has a full head of wet black hair, and a lean, handsome face with a long aquiline nose and a faint, youthful attempt at a mustache. He looks to be dead, or nearly so."

That man was A.B. Grantham, an 18-year-old from Mobile, Ala. He wouldn't see the photo, which landed on the March 1968 cover of *LIFE* magazine, until months into his recovery.

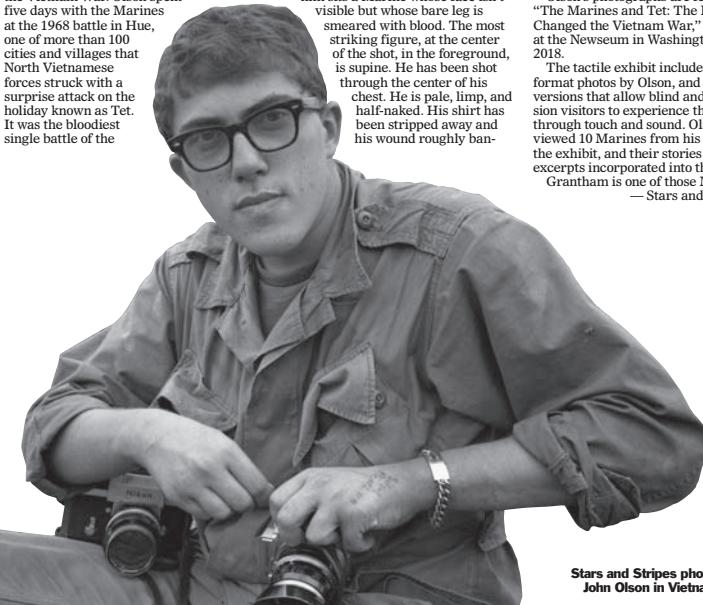
Grantham talked to Stars and Stripes about the battle — online at stripes.com/vietnam68 — and the photo is on Page 23 of this special section devoted to Vietnam at 50: 1968.

Olson's photographs are featured in "The Marines and Tet: The Battle That Changed the Vietnam War," an exhibit at the Newseum in Washington through 2018.

The tactile exhibit includes 20 large-format photos by Olson, and 10 tactile versions that allow blind and low-vision visitors to experience the images through touch and sound. Olson interviewed 10 Marines from his photos for the exhibit, and their stories are told in excerpts incorporated into the display.

Grantham is one of those Marines.

— Stars and Stripes staff



Stars and Stripes photographer
John Olson in Vietnam, 1968.

5 Zippo inscriptions

Every Zippo lighter tells a story. In Vietnam, each one said a lot about the person who carried it.

For veteran "Sonny Gunz," his lighters mean everything.

"I'll be buried with my Zippo in my pocket. The hard part will be picking which one," he said in a comment about a YouTube video tour of the Bradford, Pa., factory museum where Zippo lighters were made.

Sherry Buchanan wrote "Vietnam Zippos," devoted to soldiers' engravings and stories from 1965-1973.

"The humble Zippo became a talisman, companion and a canvas for both personal and political expression, engraved with etchings of peace signs and marijuana leaves and slogans steeped in all the rock lyrics, sound bites, combat slang, and antiwar mottos of the time," she writes.

"Part pop art and part military artifact, they collectively capture the large moods of the '60s and the darkest days of Vietnam, all through the world of the tiny Zippo."



Five inscriptions, from the book based on the collection of artist Bradford Edwards:

■ "We are the unwilling/led by the unqualified/Doing the unnecessary/for the ungrateful."

■ "One has never lived till he has almost died. Life has a flavor the protected will never know."

■ "Madre a dios le pido pronto salir de aqui," or "Mother of God I implore you to get me out of her fast."

■ "Fighters by day/Lovers by night/Drunkards by choice/Marines by mistake."

■ "When I die bury me face down so the whole world can kiss my ass."

INTRODUCTION



The end of illusions

BY ROBERT H. REID • Stars and Stripes

F

or years the American brass had dreamed of finding a way to draw Viet Cong guerrillas and the North Vietnamese regulars into big head-on fights, where overwhelming U.S. firepower could decimate their ranks and force the Communists into peace talks on U.S. terms.

The generals got what they wanted in late January 1968.

As Vietnamese north and south began to celebrate their lunar New Year, or Tet, tens of thousands of Viet Cong guerrillas and North Vietnamese regulars launched their biggest offensive of the war. They struck military and civilian targets — the capital Saigon, 36 provincial capitals, 64 district headquarters — from the Mekong Delta in the south to the Demilitarized Zone in the north.

The two-month offensive made 1968 the deadliest year of the war for the Americans.

The Tet Offensive transformed the Vietnam War — and America itself. By nearly every military metric, Tet and a series of "mini-Tets" that followed were huge defeats for the Communists. They failed to hold any of their major objectives. They failed to trigger a popular uprising against U.S.-backed South Vietnamese government.

Their underground network of civilian cadres and Viet Cong irregulars was nearly destroyed, weakening Communist control in many southern areas and forcing the North Vietnamese to assume a greater burden in the fighting.

Nevertheless, Tet proved to be a decisive strategic victory for the Communists, paving the way for their final victory seven years later. Tet ripped away the facade of optimism carefully crafted by President Lyndon Johnson's administration and destroyed Americans' confidence in their government — never fully restored to this day.

It destroyed Johnson's presidency, opening the door for his successor, President Richard Nixon, who resigned years later in the Watergate scandal.

Tet forced the U.S. political establishment to confront basic questions it had avoided throughout the country's long descent into war — how long will it take to win in Vietnam, how much will it cost and is victory worth the price?

Over time the answer became "no."

SEE END ON PAGE 20

A Marine peers through the steel bars of a window into the streets of Hue, South Vietnam, in February 1968. Marines waged a bloody battle with the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army to retake Hue after it was seized during the sprawling Tet Offensive.

JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

End: Hope of victory evaporated in '68

Surprise attack

Three weeks before Tet, the U.S. military briefed Saigon reporters on a Viet Cong notebook found months earlier: "The central headquarters has ordered the entire army and people of South Vietnam to implement a general offensive" with "very strong attacks" to "rally (South Vietnamese) brigades and regiments to our side one by one."

The brass didn't believe it. The notebook had been found near the DMZ, where the Communists were massing for a major assault on the U.S. Marine base at Khe Sahn.

The top U.S. commander, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, believed the notebook was planted by the Communists to trick the U.S. into diverting resources and attention from Khe Sahn. In fact, the Communist plan was the reverse — attack isolated rural positions to draw U.S. forces away from major population centers.

The Communist plan unfolded soon after midnight Jan. 30 when Viet Cong guerrillas backed by North Vietnamese regulars struck six provincial capitals in northern and central South Vietnam with rockets, mortars and ground assaults.

The Communists focused on South Vietnamese army headquarters and the provincial radio stations. However, the early assaults were poorly coordinated. By sunrise nearly all the attacks had been beaten back.

"I saw the possibility of destroying the enemy's will to continue the war," Westmoreland said.

All American and South Vietnamese units were placed on full alert. However, the order came after many South Vietnamese soldiers had been given leave for the Tet holiday, and their units were not at full strength. The next day, Jan. 31, the Communists launched a massive attack at 3 a.m., striking Saigon, American bases at Phi Bai and Chu Lai

in the north, the old imperial capital of Hue and other major towns and bases in the central and south. More assaults followed the next day. In all about 84,000 Communists, southern Viet Cong guerrillas and well-equipped North Vietnamese regulars — joined the fight. Within hours, the whole country was aflame.

In Saigon, the Communists struck major U.S. and South Vietnamese targets. The plan was for small teams to hold out until reinforcements arrived or until the South Vietnamese people rose up against the Americans and the South Vietnamese leadership.

Attackers seized the national broadcast center and planned to air a tape of North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh declaring an uprising. But South Vietnamese workers cut the cable to the broadcast tower. Communist attackers blew up the station and themselves.

At the U.S. Embassy, a 19-member team blasted a hole in the compound wall, raced inside the four-acre grounds but could not penetrate the main building. They were all killed when American reinforcements arrived.

In the Chinese district of Cholon, house-to-house fighting was so intense that the area was declared a fire-free zone until South Vietnamese Rangers defeated the last holdouts March 7.

To the north, the Communists overran most of the former royal capital of Hue. The 1st Marine Division and South Vietnamese soldiers rushed into the city while the 1st Cavalry Division and the 101st Airborne Division sealed off supply and escape routes.

In Hue, Marines fought house-to-house in the bloodiest urban combat faced by the Americans since the Battle of Seoul in the Korean War. The city was not recaptured until Feb. 25. Troops found mass graves of up to 2,800 South Vietnamese civilians — men, women and children — massacred by the Communists.

A Marine talks on the radio as his comrades watch for the enemy in Hue, South Vietnam, in February 1968.

PHOTOS BY JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Back home

With the recapture of Hue, the worst of the Tet Offensive was over. To the north, the Army's 1st Cavalry Division broke the siege of the Marines at Khe Sahn on April 8.

Back home, the effects of Tet roiled the nation. The American people were unprepared for images of young Americans slaughtered in a distant land.

CBS News Anchor Walter Cronkite visited Vietnam and returned with a grim report delivered on the most widely watched news show in America. "It is increasingly clear to this reporter that the only rational way out then will be to negotiate, not as victims, but as an honorable people who live up to their pledge to defend democracy and do the best they could."

The U.S. military saw things differently. With the Communists on their heels, Westmoreland believed it was time for a major counterstrike, with attacks on sanctuaries in Laos and Cambodia and across the DMZ into North Vietnam.

He asked for more than 100,000 reinforcements.

But Johnson and his inner circle feared that Westmoreland's request would force a huge increase in the unpopular draft and bankrupt the Treasury if the U.S. were to maintain its Cold War commitments worldwide.

In early March, anti-war Sen. Eugene McCarthy nearly tied Johnson in the New Hampshire Democratic primary. Four days later, Sen. Robert Kennedy entered the race. Two World War II icons, Gen. Omar Bradley and Gen. Maxwell Taylor, told Johnson the war was lost.

On March 31, Johnson went on national television to announce a near halt in the bombing of North Vietnam, an offer to negotiate peace — and that he would not seek re-election.

Gone was the hope of victory. But the war — and the dying — would drag on for years.

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The Rev. Aloysius McGonigal administers last rites to a U.S. Marine in Hue. In 1968, Americans were increasingly exposed to television news reports of casualties in Vietnam.



JANUARY



Tet Offensive transforms the war

By WYATT OLSON • Stars and Stripes

For both sides, the Tet Offensive and the events of 1968 shattered illusions that had driven strategy on the battlefield since the United States entered the war in strength three years earlier.

The North Vietnamese grossly miscalculated the amount of support they enjoyed within the South Vietnamese population. The Communists in Hanoi saw the political turmoil in the South — coups, corruption and religious tension — and assumed the southern population would rise up against their government and the Americans.

Without that uprising, the Communists suffered horrific casualties, especially within the Viet Cong infrastructure they had spent years building up within South Vietnam.

For the Americans, 1968 destroyed the very foundation of Gen. William C. Westmoreland's "war of attrition" strategy. Simply stated, the idea was that if the U.S. and South Vietnamese could inflict more casualties than the North could replace, the Communists would eventually sue for peace.

Since 1965, the challenge had been to draw the Communists into big fights where overwhelming American firepower could prevail. Instead, U.S. and South Vietnamese mostly conducted search-and-destroy missions, often under dense forest canopies.

When the enemy did initiate attack, it quickly faded back into the bush when faced with superior U.S. force and airpower.

That dynamic changed overnight Jan. 30, 1968, as the divided country prepared to celebrate what many expected to be a quiet Tet, the Vietnamese name for its lunar New Year's Day.

SEE TET ON PAGE 22

A wounded child caught in the crossfire on the streets of Hue is carried to safety by a U.S. Marine medic. In early 1968, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army launched a coordinated series of attacks in South Vietnam that changed the perception of the war among the American public and U.S. political leadership.

John Olson/Stars and Stripes

Tet: Military leaders, public had different perspectives on assaults

FROM PAGE 21

Instead of celebrations, 80,000 Viet Cong guerrillas and North Vietnamese regulars stormed more than 100 towns and cities across South Vietnam. The surprise assaults included parts of Saigon, the southern capital, as well as U.S. and South Vietnamese military bases, supply depots and airstrips.

Shaking off the shock of such widespread offensive, U.S. military commanders quickly mounted counteroffensives with about a half million American troops in country.

Within weeks, most of the Communist fighters had been decimated or driven into the countryside.

"For the Americans, this was a positive development, that the enemy wasn't running away this time," said Gregory Daddis, an associate professor of history at Chapman University in Orange, Calif. Military leaders saw the rout as a turning point in the conflict, with the chance to strike a fatal blow to a weakened enemy to achieve victory.

"Some of them were even gleeful, saying that this was just what we wanted," said Christian Appy, a professor of history at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and author of three books on the Vietnam War.

"The enemy had come out into the open where we could see them and where we could bring our enormous firepower to bear on them," he said.

Some professional soldiers saw parallels to the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, where the Germans mounted a strong offensive and inflicted major casualties before the attack.

A Marine takes aim with his M16 on the streets of Hue in February 1968.

JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

was contained and repulsed. Germany surrendered about five months later.

What the military saw as a victory, however, the American public and its political leadership saw as a defeat.

"It was the turning point by which the majority of American people finally concluded the war was either not worth the cost or was a mistake," James Willbanks, author of "The Tet Offensive: A Concise History" and a professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kan. "And a growing number had concluded that was imminent."

Unlike World War II, the public wasn't prepared for such bloodshed. Instead, the White House and Pentagon had been spinning that success was just around the corner.

Two months before Tet, Westmoreland said in Washington that U.S. forces had reached a point where "the end begins to come into view" and that "the enemy's hopes are bankrupt."

"Through 1967, it's hard to exaggerate how much effort the White House put into — and it even called it this — the 'success campaign,' propaganda campaign, to convince the American people that the war was going in the right direction, even when internally they weren't at all sure," Appy said.

Trust in government was high enough that most Americans believed what they had been told.

"For an American public that is increasingly persuaded by



Stars and Stripes

Bodies litter the street corner near South Vietnam's national radio station in Saigon. The station building — just a few blocks from the American Embassy — was one of the main strategic targets of the North Vietnamese Army's Tet Offensive.

a Pulitzer Prize winning Saigon correspondent for The Associated Press.

"Speaking for my colleagues working in Saigon at that time, our intention was to report and photograph the reality of what we were seeing before our eyes every day," he said. "Our coverage was as professional as we could achieve under difficult circumstances. That our coverage was said to polarize the American public's view of the war was not our intent."

Nevertheless, the impact of the reports was clear. Even as fighting raged, President Lyndon Johnson announced he would not seek re-election and offered to negotiate with the North Vietnamese. Johnson's successor, Richard Nixon, withdrew U.S. troops in 1973. Two years later, the North Vietnamese defeated the South and reunited the country under Communist rule.

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Courtesy of the LBJ Presidential Library

President Lyndon B. Johnson listens to tape sent from Vietnam by his son-in-law, Capt. Charles Robb, in the Cabinet Room of the White House on July 31, 1968. Johnson lost what little stomach he had for the war after Tet, and he had announced March 31 that he would not run for re-election.

Vietnam movies:



Journalist, historian and author Marc Leepson — also a Vietnam veteran — rated some of the most popular Vietnam War movies for realism. Which nail the details, and which raise enormous red flags? In no particular order:

5 most realistic

- "84 Charlie MoPic," 1989
- "Full Metal Jacket," 1987
- "Platoon," 1986
- "Born on the Fourth of July," 1989
- "We Were Soldiers," 2002



5 least realistic

- "The Deer Hunter," 1978
- "Apocalypse Now," 1979
- "Good Morning, Vietnam," 1987
- "The Green Berets," 1968
- "Missing in Action," 1984



FEBRUARY



JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. A.B. Grantham, foreground, and other wounded Marines receive medical attention as they are evacuated on a tank during the fierce fighting of the Tet Offensive. Grantham, an 18-year-old from Mobile, Ala., was unconscious and struggling to breathe after being shot in the chest; another Marine took cellophane from cigarette packs and stuffed it in his wound before wrapping it in bandages.

Brutal battle

Fight to retake Hue was war's longest, bloodiest

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

As 1968 dawned, Hue in South Vietnam had largely been spared the violence of war.

The city, the 150-year seat of Vietnam's final dynasty, was venerated by Vietnamese in the north and south.

That all changed Jan. 30, 1968, when North Vietnamese Army regulars, or NVA, and Viet Cong guerrillas seized Hue as part of the Tet Offensive, the bloodiest battle American troops faced in the Vietnam War.

On the ground, the battle ended as a decisive victory for American and South Vietnamese victory after nearly a month of intense combat. But media images of dead and wounded Ma-

rines, hollow-eyed refugees and a city laid waste undermined the official U.S. narrative that the enemy was demoralized and the end of the war was within sight.

"The whole city just stank of corruption and rotting and death and cordite," said Dale Dye, a Marine Corps correspondent and veteran of the 26-day battle.

"It was, I guess, the one battle that still haunts me because you saw so many things," he said. "I don't think it was because I was

naïve; I think it was because it was that brutal."

Today, Hue is a tourist mecca with little evidence of war. Tourists stroll through the open grounds of the sprawling, reconstructed imperial Citadel, where hundreds died in close-quarters combat.

As the lunar New Year began in 1968, 10 battalions of Viet Cong and NVA swept into Hue, divided by the Perfume River, with the Citadel to the north

and the newer part of the city — filled with French colonial-style buildings — to the south. The sole U.S. presence in Hue had been a headquarters compound of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, or MACV.

"Essentially overnight the VC and NVA captured the whole city," said James Willbanks, author of "The Tet Offensive: A Concise History" and a professor at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Leaven-

worth, Kan.

Marines from Phu Bai, about 8 miles south of Hue, were the first relief to arrive and help defend the MACV compound.

Dye was at Phu Bai, along with Steve Bernstein, a fellow combat correspondent, when he heard about some kind of dustup in Hue, despite the North's announcement that it would observe a seven-day Tet ceasefire.

"It became obvious on the trip up that something was wrong, because we didn't see many people out to celebrate," Dye said. "All hell broke loose" as his convoy entered southern Hue.

SEE BRUTAL ON PAGE 24

"We realized very quickly that we were in a mess here and that this was no small uprising. This was serious business."

Dale Dye

Marine Corps correspondent and veteran of the 26-day Battle of Hue

Hue: In their own words



Video: During the battle, 18-year-old U.S. Marine Pfc. A.B. Grantham of Mobile, Ala., was shot in the chest by a North Vietnamese soldier.

"I was looking right down the barrel of the gun," Grantham recalled.

Story and photos: Then-Gunner Sgt. John Canley received a Navy Cross for his actions in one of the bloodiest battles of the war. That honor was upgraded this year, when the retired Marine sergeant major was presented with the Medal of Honor.

stripes.com/vietnam68

5 more notable battles from '68

Excerpted from "Brutal Battles of Vietnam, America's Deadliest Days," edited by Richard K. Kolb and "dedicated to the 58,275 Americans who sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam War." The book, published by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, covers 1965-1972.



Killing Zone at Hoc Mon, March 2

"In perhaps the Vietnam War's deadliest single engagement in terms of time and KIAs, 48 men of Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Division were killed by the Viet Cong in just 8 minutes on March 2, 1968, north of Saigon."

'Walking Dead' on Hill 689, April 16

"The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, which earned the nickname 'The Walking Dead' in Vietnam, lost 42 men in a fight so fierce they were forced to leave men behind."

'Magnificent Bastards' battle at Dai Do, May

"Vestly outnumbered, the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, nonetheless halted an NVA thrust into Quang Tri province in early May 1968 in one of the war's epic battles."

Street battle in Saigon, May 7-13

"From the rice paddies of the Mekong Delta, battalions of four regiments of the 9th Infantry Division were suddenly plunged into urban combat in Saigon's District 8 during the so-called Mini Tet Offensive of May 1968."

'Storm of Steel': Ap Trang Dau, Sept. 6

"For 30 minutes in the early morning darkness of Sept. 6, the 187th Infantry's Alpha Company (96 men) fended off more than 600 Communists, losing 28 percent of its men."



John Olson/Stars and Stripes

Two U.S. Marines try to help a fellow Marine, severely wounded in the battle for the tower guarding the Eastern Gate of the walled Citadel in Hue, South Vietnam. The Marines, who fought a grueling battle to retake the city, were obsessed with seeing the Viet Cong flag lowered.

Brutal: Marines had not been trained for urban fighting in Hue

FROM PAGE 23

"We realized very quickly that we were in a mess here and that this was no small uprising. This was serious business," he said.

When Berntsen's convoy crossed the final canal bridge into the south side of Hue, it came under intense fire by machine guns, mortars and grenades. The convoy reached the MACV compound, and soon after, the enemy blew up the bridge.

The immediate problem facing the Marines was that they had no training for urban fighting.

Berntsen said "the guys who grew up in the big cities" took the lead in this new style of fighting in Vietnam.

"They knew how to move and maneuver and how to get around in the city, in city blocks, in buildings," he said. "They pretty much took charge of leading the squads into the buildings, up the stairs."

The Marines spent about 10 days clearing buildings along Le Loi Street, which paralleled the Perfume River. Many of them were large complexes fortified by the NVA for battle to the last stand, Berntsen said.

On a second-floor hospital ward an enemy fighter posing as a patient leaped out of bed and fired an AK-47. A nurse charged up a stairwell, firing a Kalashnikov automatic rifle as she went.

By Feb. 12, the south side of Hue had largely been secured.

"Everybody began to turn and look across the river knowing that we would have to go over and eventually attack the Citadel," Dye said.

Fight for the Citadel

The massive Citadel was a square of fortified stone walls, with each side about a mile long. Most of the wall was about 2 yards thick. Surrounding the entire thing was a moat.

Inside was a warren of small houses and homes surrounding the Imperial City, another walled bastion at the core of the Citadel.

Tens of thousands of laborers worked for 30 years to build the Citadel. Almost all of the Imperial City's 160 buildings were destroyed in two weeks.

The Marines began a concerted assault on the Citadel on Feb. 13. Berntsen, exhausted, hungry," and "pretty much numbered" had a chance to go back to the Marine base camp.

But there was a Viet Cong flag flying over the Citadel.

"That had become an obsession with the Marines — including myself — and I wanted to be there to see that when it was taken down," he said.

The Marines were ordered to push from north to south inside the Imperial City wall.

"We organized ourselves in a line and tried to sweep southward, but people were getting shot up and we were running into ambushes and having to clear houses so that line just never really held all it could," Dye said. "That really turned into a meat grinder, because they had those walls and we were down on the streets. It was brutal."

In the jungle, troops rarely saw the enemy, only fleeting shadows

or a muzzle flash, Dye said.

"But that wasn't the case in Hue," he said. "I mean, you saw those guys; you saw them put the rifle on their shoulder and shoot at you. You see them everywhere."

Reinforcements were rushed in so quickly that some of the dead still had airplane boarding passes in their pockets, Dye said.

"There just never seemed to be an end to it," Dye recalled. "The more we killed, the more we found."

Berntsen joined a corpsman atop one of the Citadel walls to help carry out a wounded Marine. Berntsen spied a nearby shutter door that could be used

as a stretcher. The next thing he recalled was waking up in the middle of the street with shrapnel "still burning in my arm and my legs and my back."

He'd been hit by an armor-piercing rocket. Berntsen was rushed to an aid station, beginning a year of healing that included numerous operations.

By Feb. 25, the Citadel had been recaptured.

"I don't remember anyone doing anything but staring around the area," Dye said. "It was so grinding, so exhausting, that the only high you got, really, was the fact that you were alive for the next 15 minutes."

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My Lai: 'A stain on the Army'

Story and photos: The causes and aftermath of the March 16, 1968, atrocity and its cover-up. Who was to blame?

Obituary: Capt. Ernest L. Medina, the company commander accused and acquitted of responsibility for killing hundreds of Vietnamese civilians.

Profile: Aubrey Daniel, who successfully prosecuted Lt. William Calley for mass murder for his part in the 1968 My Lai Massacre

Update: A look at what happened to some of the key players.

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In their words

The Vietnam War experience, from those who lived it

"I am not going to lose Vietnam. I am not going to be the president who saw Southeast Asia go the way China went."

Newly inaugurated President Lyndon Johnson at a White House meeting Nov. 24, 1963, responding to U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.

"You can kill 10 of my men for every one I kill of yours, but even at those odds, you will lose and I will win."

Viet Minh leader Ho Chi Minh in a warning to French colonialists in 1946

"We are fighting a war with no front lines, since the enemy hides among the people, in the jungles and mountains, and uses covertly border areas of neutral countries. One cannot measure [our] progress by lines on a map."

Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the commander of all U.S. military forces in Vietnam, in a speech to a joint session of Congress on April 28, 1967

"We didn't have a race problem. We had a leadership problem. Period."

Marine Sgt. Maj. John Canley, who is African-American, was awarded the Medal of Honor in October 2018 for his efforts during the Battle of Hue, one of the bloodiest battles of the Vietnam War.



"Our present course [in Vietnam] will not bring victory; will not bring peace; will not stop the bloodshed; and will not advance the interests of the United States or the cause of peace in the world."

Robert F. Kennedy, March 19, 1968

"Greeting: You are hereby ordered for induction in the Armed Forces of the United States."

Selective Service System notice. In 1967, more than 300,000 American men opened envelopes with this statement inside.

"We arrived as strangers; we left as brothers. We didn't think we were special. We just tried to do what was right. And when we came home, we had a simple saying: Every day is extra. I used my extra days to join other veterans to end a war I believed was wrong. I saw courage both in the Vietnam War and in the struggle to stop it. I learned that patriotism includes protest, not just military service."

John Kerry, recalling his service in announcing his candidacy for president in September 2003

"You're not a baby boomer if you don't have a visceral recollection of a Kennedy and a King assassination, a Beatles breakup, a U.S. defeat in Vietnam, and a Watergate."

P.J. O'Rourke, American political satirist and journalist

"For it seems now more certain than ever, that the bloody experience of Vietnam is to end in a stalemate."

Walter Cronkite at the close of the CBS Evening News broadcast Feb. 27, 1968, reporting on a trip to Vietnam in the aftermath of the Tet Offensive

5 best books on the Vietnam War

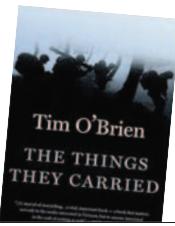
According to writer Karl Marlantes, Vietnam veteran, Rhodes Scholar and Yale graduate. In 1977, the former Marine began writing a novel about his experience in combat. "Motherless" took Marlantes 30 years to write.

'A Rumor of War,' by Philip Caputo 1977

"One of the first really well-written books that describe the moral ambiguities and difficulties faced by a young Marine officer in this particular war."

'The Things They Carried,' by Tim O'Brien 1990

"... A series of short stories involving those things ... that bring you to reality."



'The Sorrow of War,' by Bao Ninh 1987

"Reading this piece of writing about an individual soldier in a war on the other side was just very moving for me."

'Fields of Fire,' by James Webb 1978

"Webb understands the warrior mentality ... a lot of people like to think that we all hate war, and warriors hate war too, but there's something in them that makes them good at it, that makes them think: 'I can't wait for the next one.'"

'365 Days,' by Ronald J. Glasser 1971

"One of the great examples of breaking through the statistics ... An Army doctor showing the human side of word 'casualties'."

From fivelbooks.com, which asks experts to recommend the five best books on their subject and explain those choices.



The war, by the numbers

4

Dead in Ohio. Kent State University students killed by Ohio National Guard on May 4, 1970, during demonstrations after the invasion of Cambodia. It spawned antwar protests and riots on hundreds of other campuses.



Mary Ann Vecchio
screams as
she kneels by
the body of a
student shot
at Kent State in
Kent, Ohio,
on May 4,
1970.
AP

8

American women whose deaths were reported in Vietnam during the war.

20

The age that a U.S. servicemember was most likely to die in the war. Sixty-one percent of the men killed were 21 or younger.

32

States carried by the Republicans in the 1968 election of President Richard M. Nixon, with 302 electoral votes. (270 were needed to win.) Hubert H. Humphrey won 13 states and Washington, D.C., with 191 electoral votes. George Wallace carried five states, with 45 electoral votes.



Republican Richard Nixon
scored a
convincing
victory in
the 1968
presidential
election.



JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Newly arrived troops of 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, pick up their weapons from the crates on the tarmac at an unidentified airport in South Vietnam in April 1968. The U.S. reached its peak of 543,482 servicemembers that month.

336

Blue plastic capsules containing the birthdays chosen in the first Vietnam draft lottery drawing Dec. 1, 1969.



According to court testimony, this Vietnamese woman was killed in the My Lai Massacre just after this photo was taken March 16, 1968.

RONALD L. HAEBERLE
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

500

Estimate of how many unarmed civilians – old men, women and children – were killed March 16, 1968, by U.S. soldiers in what would be called the My Lai Massacre. Lt. William Calley was found guilty of premeditated murder. His sentence was repeatedly reduced, until it was commuted to time served by Nixon.

1,601

Vietnam soldiers unaccounted for, as of January 2018. The total of American servicemen listed as POW/MIA at the end of the war was 2,646.

14,933

The highest number of U.S. combat deaths for any year in the war, for 1968.

\$30,000

Cost of one sortie for a B-52 bomber.

500,000

Estimated number of missions flown by medevac helicopters.

543,482

Peak U.S. troop strength in Vietnam (April 30, 1968), according to vietnamwar50th.com.

246

Largest number of U.S. forces killed in action in a single day, occurring Jan. 31, 1968.



JOHN OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Three body bags are lined up awaiting evacuation from Khe Sanh base Jan. 25, 1968. The base was hit by North Vietnamese mortar and artillery fire, and the siege lasted 77 days.

AUGUST



PHOTOS BY WARREN K. LEFFLER/Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

A young "hippie" stands in front of a row of National Guard soldiers, across the street from the Hilton Hotel at Grant Park, at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, on Aug. 26, 1968.

A nation divided

Chicago Democratic convention in '68 embodies clash over future of America

By DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

On Aug. 28, 1968, the streets of Chicago exploded into violence. Antirwar protesters, defiant and bloodied, poured onto Michigan Avenue, determined to reach the International Amphitheatre, where the Democratic National Convention was in its third day.

Police officers, exhausted and at the end of their rope, didn't hold back. They pounded into the protesters with clubs and tear gas, striking indiscriminately and pressing the crowd back into Grant Park. At the back of the

park, hundreds were up against a plate glass window of the Hilton Hotel. It shattered, allowing an outlet for those being crushed and adding shards of broken glass to the bloody mix.

Television cameras captured the gruesome scenes live, as protesters chanted: "The whole world is watching."

The violence was the climax of a week of unprecedented clashes outside a national political convention. Inside, a divided Democratic Party sought a way forward toward the 1968 presidential election.

Party leaders had just voted down a peace plank in the party platform, infuriating antwar delegates, when NBC News made the fateful decision to cut away from the angry exchanges on the convention floor and broadcast the violence unfolding in the

streets. CBS soon followed suit. The scenes outside were visible on screens inside the conventional hall.

Sen. Abraham Ribicoff stood to nominate peace candidate George McGovern. Then he looked directly at Chicago Mayor and Democratic Party Boss Richard Daley and declared: "With George McGovern as president of the United States, we wouldn't have these Gestapo tactics on the streets of Chicago!"

Daley shouted back, calling on the senator to leave the podium, and reportedly shouting epithets. The hall erupted in shouts and jeers.

The American system was faltering. And the world was watching.

SEE DIVIDED ON PAGE 28



An Illinois delegate at the 1968 Democratic National Convention reacts to Sen. Abraham Ribicoff's nominating speech for George McGovern in which he criticized the tactics of the Chicago police against anti-Vietnam war protesters.

Divided: Escalation of war, assassinations left Americans shaken

Coming apart

It had been a year of turmoil. A dramatic and unexpected escalation in the Vietnam War unsettled the nation—and the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson. It lifted the veil of an imminent victory, and many Americans began to conclude that their leaders had been lying to them. Two champions of change were assassinated, unleashing riots and clashes with police and military troops on city streets. Election-year politics mirrored that unrest, exposing deep divisions that were rumbling through the Democratic Party like an earthquake.

Some have said this was the year America came apart. If so, the Chicago Democratic National Convention was the fault line, the combustible meeting of machine party politics and an angry uprising, giving voice to ordinary citizens who had grown to feel betrayed—their war blinders lifted and race frustrations exploding.

"The 1968 Chicago convention became a lacerating event, a distillation of a year of heartbreak, assassinations, riots and a breakdown of law and order that made it seem as if the country were coming apart," the late Pulitzer Prize-winning political writer Haynes Johnson, who covered the convention, wrote in a commemorative article for Smithsonian Magazine in 2008.

"In its psychic impact and its long-term political consequences, it eclipsed any other such convention in American history, destroying faith in politicians, in the political system, in the country and its institutions," Johnson wrote. "No one who was there or who watched it on television could escape the memory of what took place before their eyes."

"In its psychic impact and its long-term political consequences, it eclipsed any other such convention in American history, destroying faith in politicians, in the political system, in the country and its institutions. No one who was there or who watched it on television could escape the memory of what took place before their eyes."

Haynes Johnson

Pulitzer-winning political writer, in a 2008 Smithsonian article

On the streets, a cross-section of revolutionary youth tested the limits of their rights—to oppose the war, to reform racial or social injustices or to hold provocative, drug- and sex-infused theatrical events to challenge the system—all pulling at the seams of law and order.

Inside the convention was a Democratic Party in disarray. Johnson, the party leader who had swept to victory four years earlier, dropped out over opposition to the war. Peace candidates splintered the party further, and race issues led a third-party candidate to peel off the party. The old guard was holding firm to its control over choosing delegates, but demands for greater popular selection was mounting.

Daley made clear his intent: to keep control of the Illinois delegates and to keep order on the streets. Angry standoffs, the threats of violence and a sense that the system was no longer working bubbled up inside and outside.

"This was part of a clash ... which was really a fight over the future of the country," said Dick Simpson, professor of political

science at the University of Illinois, Chicago, who ran Eugene McCarthy's Chicago campaign in 1968. "And each person who was involved, whether they were in the convention hall, whether they were in the streets, whether they were police or protesters or delegates—thought that whatever happened, the future of the country depended on them and their friends. And they were angry at the other side."

"There were few people in the middle of this question," Simpson said, speaking in Chicago in August at a 50th anniversary event organized by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "It was an important clarifying clash out of which our history is made."

An eruption brewing

The year had left Americans shaken.

Television brought the war into people's living rooms, making it impossible to ignore. The attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon—perhaps seen as Ground Zero for U.S. control—was broadcast live, interrupting Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show."

Death tolls climbed all year, beginning with the Tet Offensive in late January, when North Vietnamese forces and Viet Cong launched fierce surprise attacks on cities and bases all over South Vietnam.

By May 1968, the bloodiest month since the start of the war, the tally of American dead had reached more than 2,400. As the fighting raged and peace talks mired in stalemate, the antiwar movement only grew. Many Americans woke up to the idea that the war could not be won militarily.

"Our enemy savagely striking at will across all of South Vietnam has finally shattered the mask of official illusion with which we have concealed our true circumstances," Robert Kennedy said in a speech in Chicago in February, weeks before he entered the presidential race promising to seek a peace settlement.

Uprisings erupting in European capitals—in France, student protests led to a nationwide strike that brought its economy to a standstill—emboldened the American movement. In late

April, students occupied several buildings at Columbia University for a week, forcing the campus to shut down before over 700 were arrested and more than 100 injured.

Meanwhile, Kennedy's candidacy spurred Johnson to drop out of the race but it divided the party's peace camp that had been backing McCarthy. Race issues had been taking a parallel but largely separate path, with Martin Luther King Jr. supporting the antiwar movement while focusing on the rights of blacks in America. His assassination in June 1968 led to unprecedented rioting across the country. Kennedy's assassination in June was yet another jolting blow for the party and the country at large. Deep, divisive social issues were converging in the shock of a nation.

"What had been brewing in this country was this tremendous resentment that seemed to just explode with these two events," said Bernard Sieracki, a Korean War veteran, professor and retired political lobbyist in Illinois, speaking at the Lincoln library event.

This seething storyline reached crescendo in August as thousands of protesters descended on Chicago, bent on disrupting the convention. Daley, who had responded to riots in Chicago following King's assassination by giving the police the order to "shoot to kill any arsonists or anyone with a Molotov cocktail," called up 12,000 police officers. Backing them up were nearly 6,000 Illinois National Guard and 5,000 Army soldiers.

The International Amphitheatre was cordoned off and demonstrators were not given permits to protest.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



Above: The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. stands with other civil rights leaders on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., on April 3, 1968, a day before he was assassinated at approximately the same place. From left are Hosea Williams, Jesse Jackson, King and Ralph Abernathy.



AP

Right: Sen. Robert Kennedy awaits medical assistance as he lies on the floor of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles moments after he was shot June 5, 1968. Juan Romero, a 17-year-old busboy, kneels by his side.

LOS ANGELES TIMES/AP



FROM PAGE 28

Antiwar protesters led by New Left leaders Rennie Davis, Tom Hayden and underground magazine editor David Dellinger mobilized under the umbrella of MOBE, or the National Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam. They never reached the tens of thousands they'd hoped, but they were organized and had practiced street-fighting tactics and plotted methods to taunt and incite police.

Social revolutionaries and anarchists, led by Jerry Rubin, Abbie Hoffman and others, organized a "Festival for Life" under the moniker Yippies, or the Youth International Party. They nominated a pig for president and promised disruption of the political system by putting on a freewheeling countercultural theater to draw attention to their antics in the streets and away from the convention.

Police lined the streets with sticks, shields, helmets and tear gas. National Guardsmen, with heavy vehicles draped in razor wire, waited in reserve.

Both sides were agitated and ready.

"There was a swelling up of apocalyptic feeling, a sense of chaos, a sense of astonishment and shock," Todd Gitlin, who had presided over Students for a Democratic Society in 1964 and '65, said in an interview in August with The Nation magazine. "Everything is accelerated; old centers are not holding. Some people think that what's coming is a revolution. Others think that what's coming is fascism. Whatever is coming, is coming fast and precipitously."

From inside the hall, newsmen Walter Cronkite described the scene on the streets of Chicago as the convention got underway Aug. 26.

"In the name of security, freedom of the press, freedom of movement, perhaps as far as the demonstrators themselves are concerned, even freedom of speech have been severely restricted here. A Democratic convention is about to begin in a police state."

Inside, outside

The convention opened to what Haynes Johnson called "an abiding pessimism."

Vice President Hubert Humphrey had sat out the primaries, but with the president's withdrawal leaving a vacuum in party leadership, Humphrey became the establishment candidate. McCarthy had won a significant number of delegates, but party practice dictated that the winner take all the delegates and meant that the McCarthy camp was relegated to a position of protest. Sen. George McGovern, a late entry into the race, had rallied many of Kennedy's backers, but they too were powerless.

Calls for reform in the party's delegate selection were bubbling up to the surface. Each day, beset by the knowledge that on the other side a Republican Party rallying behind Nixon looked set to win in November, delegates and party leaders faced off in heated shouting matches that lasted into the early morning.

Hired guards on the conven-



LBJ Library photo by Yoichi Okamoto

The first family watches the 1968 Democratic National Convention. From left, Luci Baines Johnson, aide Tom Johnson (no relation), unidentified man and Lynda Johnson Robb. In bed are President Lyndon B. Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson.

tion floor kept tight control. The camera captured CBS reporter Dan Rather getting strong-armed as he tried to interview a delegate who was being escorted out. Rather was heard on microphone saying, "Take your hands off me unless you plan to arrest me."

"We tried to talk to the man and we got violently pushed out of the way," Rather said a few minutes later on air. "This is the kind of thing that has been going on outside the hall; this is the first time we've had it happen inside the hall. We ... I'm sorry to be out of breath, but somebody belted me in the stomach during that."

Outside, clashes between protesters and police were growing increasingly violent. Protesters rallied, gave speeches and some played cat-and-mouse with police, defying curfews, trying to break through cordons and throwing things to try to anger them.

With growing frequency, the National Guard were called in to replace exhausted city cops who grew increasingly violent.

Taylor Pensoneau, a political author and retired professor who covered the 1968 convention for the St. Louis Post Dispatch, said the Guard under the command of Brig. Gen. Richard Dunn performed as they had been trained. Though many were also just kids, they maintained discipline and refrained from using live ammunition.

Police, however, "took the situation and insults [only] so long, and their patience ran out," Pensoneau said at the Lincoln library event. "It was my impression they felt they had a green light from Mayor Daley's office to forcibly try to suppress the disruption of the convention."

By Wednesday, the anger had

reached a climax inside and outside the hall.

Inside, it became clear that the party bosses were going to maintain control. The antiwar voice was being quashed and the fighting grew more bitter.

"We were in a struggle over the future of democracy," said Simpson, a McCarthy campaigner. "What was our city, our state, our nation going to look like? Which kind of president were we going to elect? Were we going to continue the war in Vietnam? Were we going to continue racial discrimination in its worst form? Were we going to continue the imperial presidency when the president could get away with the kinds of things Nixon got away with at Watergate?"

Outside, the protesters attempted to march down Michigan Avenue to the International Amphitheatre and the television cameras turned on them live.

Ron Ferrizzi, a helicopter chief fighting in Vietnam, was in Australia for R&R that week. Ferrizzi, who was featured in the PBS documentary "The Vietnam War," described thinking the Russians had invaded Czechoslovakia when he turned on the TV and saw a storm trooper "smacking a kid with a bat, and there's blood everywhere and rioting."

Then he realized this was Chicago.

"At that moment I was politicized," Ferrizzi said in the documentary. "I realized that anybody who really cared for America was sent halfway around the world, chasing some ghost in the jungle, killing somebody else's grandmother for no reason at all and in the meantime, my country is being torn apart."

"I saw somebody who looked like my dad hitting somebody

who looked like me. Oh my God, whose side would I be on?"

On the last night of the convention after Humphrey was selected, Kennedy supporters stood and repeatedly sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," refusing to sit down. Humphrey supporters started boozing. Then fights broke out.

The party bosses had won. The war would go on for several more years. And the hopes for change from the establishment had been quashed.

Inside and outside, a national wound was exposed.

"The violence ... throughout that week, much of it captured live on television, confirmed both the Democrat's pessimism and the country's judgment of a political party torn by dissension and disunity," Haynes Johnson wrote.

Aftermath

For many years after the convention, Nixon and the Republican Party appeared to be the big winners, with Nixon sweeping the electoral votes in 1968 and trouncing McGovern in 1972.

President Donald Trump is now the sixth Republican president since 1968; there have been half as many Democrats.

Within the Democratic Party, the fault line that cracked wide open led to significant reform of the electoral process with the introduction of primaries, so that the selection of the party nominee would no longer be governed solely by the insider establishment. But the new system has its own issues, and super delegates could be considered another form of at least partial establishment control.

The wound that opened in August 50 years ago continues to fester.

Dean Blobaum, who cre-

ated a comprehensive website documenting that 1968 week in Chicago, likes to compare the Democratic National Convention of 1968 to the Battle of Gettysburg. Not because the events themselves were similar but because neither can be summed up in a single conclusion. They were both complex events coming together in a stunning and devastating point in time that changed American history but left it permanently scarred.

Like Gettysburg, the divisions that came into such stark focus in 1968 for all the world to see did not start then. In the wake of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal became a lightning rod for vehement criticism from opposing sides. Liberals said the program did not do enough for the poor, while conservatives called it socialism in disguise. Race issues had been festering for years and continue to erupt to this day.

"It didn't start in '68," Blobaum said. "I understand the impulse to put it in '68, because it was so stark. But I think it's a piece of with more of American history."

The parties that came together in such combustion in Chicago in 1968 arrived from opposite ends of the spectrum and left the way they came — just more battered.

Whether the rift that was exposed was new or had deepened is still under contention 50 years later. But the wounding events of that August political convention were broadcast live for the world to see. Today, they remain an indelible and memorable mark not just on American politics but on a society that has never again been able to define itself so completely.

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FEBRUARY 2018



PHOTOS BY COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

Marine Corps veteran Bill Hutton, who fought in Vietnam in 1966 and 1967, points up toward Hill 400 from a valley at the base of The Rock Pile in Quang Tri province March 5. Hutton, who was wounded on Hill 400, earned a Silver Star and three Purple Hearts during his time in Vietnam.

50 years after fighting in the war, veterans go back and gain new perspective

Editor's note: This is the final story in an eight-day series.

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

QUANG TRI PROVINCE, Vietnam **I**t didn't change one thing, Bill Hutton said, reflecting on his journey to the battlefields where he spilled blood as a teenage Marine fighting in some of the United States' first, brutal engagements with the North Vietnamese Army.

"Quite honestly, it changes everything," the 71-year-old Californian said. "My perspective has done a complete 180 [degrees] compared to how I felt a month, two months, six months, six years ago."

Hutton had not expected feelings of relief. In truth, he said, he did not want to return to Vietnam.

"Why bother? I never felt like I would find anything I lost there," he said, noting the reservations he had about the trip even as he sat on the Airbus A380 jumbo jet in February, ferrying him on the first leg of the trip across the Pacific Ocean from Los Angeles to Seoul, South Korea.

He thought he'd left for good 52 years ago.

"I figured that going back there would bring back all these



Phan My, 15, speaks with Hutton outside her home in Cam Lo, Vietnam, on March 5. The young girl, who speaks fluent English, invited a group of Vietnam War veterans to her home after meeting them while they were touring her country, where they once fought.

memories that I've had for all these years — something that would probably just enlarge the problem and leave it ever more significant in my life."

His was wrong.

The trip — a 10-day journey through what is today central Vietnam with 13 other Marine veterans and a Navy corpsman who fought in the area during the 1960s — was healing. This was the country where his youth and

innocence were stripped from him, where he watched close friends fall in combat, where he would be medically evacuated from during a bloody tour in 1966. This was where he earned three Purple Heart medals and a Silver Star.

"I tell everybody now that I know that are Vietnam veterans that ask me about it, that I have no other recommendation but for them to go back and visit this area

because it will give you a sense of relief, of release," he said.

He later realized he found that in an unexpected place — not on the battlefields where he remembered his fallen Marine brothers, but with the Vietnamese people, especially the country's youth, whom he encountered in large cities and small villages. Those children — not much younger than he was when he was fighting in their country — flocking to

"When you see these kids smiling like this and accepting us like this. ... The only thing I can think is that they really accepted that we were there and that we tried to do the best that we could for them."

Bill Hutton
Vietnam veteran

the group of Americans almost everywhere they visited. They listened and shared conversations — often in near-perfect English — as they welcomed the foreigners to their towns and, on one occasion, to their homes.

"That's where I got the closure of everything, thinking 'Hey, we did the right thing,'" Hutton said.

SEE RETURNING ON PAGE 31



Richard Prince is comforted by his fellow Vietnam War Marine veterans as he grows emotional March 2 while revisiting the location where he fought and was wounded at the Citadel in Hue during the Tet Offensive in February 1968.

COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

Read the rest of the series

Fifteen men gathered at an airport in Los Angeles earlier this year, shook hands, chatted and then boarded a plane bound for the one place each had once desperately desired to escape from forever — Vietnam.

Follow their journey at

stripes.com/vietnam68

FROM PAGE 30

"When you see these kids smiling like this and accepting us like this ... The only thing I can think is that they really accepted that we were there and that we tried to do the best that we could for them."

Hutton's was a familiar refrain among the veterans shuttled around central Vietnam on an all-expenses-paid tour of their battlefields provided by non-profit The Greatest Generations Foundation.

Jorge Azpeitia, who served in Danang during two tours in Vietnam between 1968 and 1970, said his most important takeaway from the trip back to the city where he fought was the friendliness of the people.

"I tell people that the Vietnamese people have suffered incredible losses, incredible personal sacrifices because of that war, and you would think that after what they went through that they would hate us," said Azpeitia, who retired from the Marine Corps reserve in 1998 as a master gunnery sergeant. "Instead, I was warmly received and respected in their country. That act of human kindness is deeply rooted within me and has impacted me profoundly."

Unlike Hutton, Azpeitia had long sought to return to Vietnam. He had personal demons to confront and closure to find. After the trip, he said that he had succeeded; his occasional nightmares have not returned since visiting Vietnam.

"I feel better about myself and sleep better," he said. "It was an incredible trip that has deeply touched my life."

Neither the hip-high barrier blocking the road nor the faded signs warning — in English and

Finding their wars

For Azpeitia and many of the veterans on the foundation's most recent Vietnam program, their wars — the locations where they fought or lived — were in coastal cities and villages that proved relatively simple to find.

The locations looked different.

No sign remains of the sprawling logistics base tucked along Red Beach where Azpeitia served in Danang. Highways and roads, once entirely dirt and pockmarked by American convoys, have been paved over and are littered by electric scooters, cars and tour buses. In villages outside Danang and Hue, cement and brick homes with electricity replace grass hooches.

Even the ever-present rice paddies look different.

"The dykes are smaller," one veteran observed. "I don't know how we would have been able to take cover if they looked like this back then."

Paved roads led the way to the battlefields near Danang where Azpeitia and Steve Bernton fought NVA and Viet Cong fighters as young men. In Hue city, Steve Haas and Richard Prince walked to locations where they fought to retake the key city in the days after thousands of NVA and Viet Cong fighters stormed and captured it during 1968's Tet Offensive.

Hutton's war was more difficult to locate. It took hours of navigating precarious, muddy, uneven dirt roads through rural farmland and jungle to get to this green valley, deep in central Vietnam just beyond wooden fencing.

"I was taken aback that some of the areas where we Marines actually fought were actually accessible by bus," Hutton said. "I was thinking, 'Wow, I was up in the triple canopy jungles of South Vietnam (just south of the Demilitarized Zone) and you could only get there by helicopter.' It kind of put into perspective some of the overview of the way we fought the war in Vietnam and what we fought."

Timothy Davis has shuttled hundreds of American and Australian war veterans back to the battlefields where they served since founding The Greatest Generations Foundation in 2004. The native of Australia, who now lives in Denver, established the nonprofit because he saw the need to provide war veterans a

Vietnamese — of the potential for landmines stopped Hutton's quest.

He had found his war.

It was here — the thick jungle in the shadow of the impending, jagged mountain known as The Rockpile — that Hutton fought as a 19-year-old during Operations Hastings and Prairie in 1966. Those were some of the earliest major fights between U.S. Marines and NVA forces, which successfully pushed the North Vietnamese across the DMZ.

Once over the wooden fence, Hutton took off — at times jogging — toward higher ground to acclimate himself with the terrain he hadn't seen in five decades.

Describing his jaunt as "battle mode," Hutton explained to the four men attempting to keep up with him where he and other Marines were during the fight and where the enemy attacked from as it aimed to take The Rockpile, a strategic location for U.S. artillery and reconnaissance assets.

"You control The Rockpile, you control most of the southwest valley, along the DMZ," Hutton said as he eyed nearby Hill 400, where he was wounded for the second and third time during his tour. "When you sit here and look at this, I actually have a better perspective today about what the mission — our mission and the NVA's mission — was than I did back then."

Within hours, in the nearby village of Cam Lo, Hutton said he found his closure. A schoolhouse of English-speaking, middle-school students flocked to Hutton and fellow Marine veteran Lynn Sternolle, welcoming the veterans to their homes and asking them questions about their experiences in the war.

'Can't really explain it'

Timothy Davis has shuttled hundreds of American and Australian war veterans back to the battlefields where they served since founding The Greatest Generations Foundation in 2004. The native of Australia, who now lives in Denver, established the nonprofit because he saw the need to provide war veterans a

means to return to areas where they served and ensure that their stories continue to be told.

"That's why we always say, 'Every day is Memorial Day' because we need to remember the sacrifices these guys have made every single day," Davis said. "Look at these guys — every one is a ... hero. Every one of these boys sacrificed, fought and we should be honoring that."

Funded by individual donations, the foundation provides the veterans with everything needed to return — flights, transportation to country, visas, accommodations, food, drinks and experiences that include a ride in Vietnam War-era Jeeps through the streets of Danang andrickshaw and boat tours in Hue.

Veterans are nominated to attend a program and selected based on criteria including their physical condition. Davis said he wished he could take every veteran who wanted to return to their battlefields, but that's not possible.

He hopes to return about 250 veterans per year.

"You never know what's going to happen on the program," Davis said. "Every one is different. But they are all powerful. When you see this guy's eyes light up because he recognizes something, he remembers something — when you see these veterans consoling each other, because the emotions are so raw. Can't really explain it."

Final salute

Upon the group's return home, there was one last event — a proper welcome at Los Angeles International Airport, where a dozen law enforcement officers greeted the veterans after they disembarked their plane.

"What an incredible honor," said Azpeitia, a retired Los Angeles police officer, who said he was anything but welcomed home from Vietnam 50 years earlier. "That's the way to come home. That was really something special."

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Vietnam vets' Top 5 songs

Submitted by Doug Bradley and Craig Werner, authors of "We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War," who interviewed about 300 veterans while writing the book.

1. "We Gotta Get Out of This Place," The Animals
2. "Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-to-Die Rag," Country Joe and the Fish
3. "Leaving on a Jet Plane," Peter, Paul and Mary
4. "Fortunate Son," Creedence Clearwater Revival
5. "Purple Haze," The Jimi Hendrix Experience



More on music from the era: Soundtrack of their lives

In their 2015 book "We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War," Doug Bradley, a Vietnam veteran, and Craig Werner, a professor of Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin Madison, explore the music of the era, how troops used music to cope with life in a war zone and how veterans turned to music as a means of survival and reintegration upon coming home.

The first rock 'n' roll war

In Vietnam, music changed the way troops went to war. It gave them a way to bond in a far-off place they wanted to leave. It helped them process their experiences once they came home. On the home-front, music mobilized the antiwar movement. It was a time of chaos in-country and more chaos on campus. For the first time, TV gave people a front-row seat to war on the nightly news. The news was not good. Khe Sanh. Body counts. Four dead in O-hi-o.

The ballad of Barry Sadler

In 1966, Army Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler, an active-duty Green Beret medic, became a national sensation with his song "The Ballad of the Green Berets." His fall from short-lived stardom perches make the story all the more compelling. Historian and Vietnam veteran Marc Leepson captures it all in "Ballad of the Green Berets: The Life and Wars of Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler from the Vietnam War and Pop Stardom to Murder and an Unsolved, Violent Death."

stripes.com/vietnam50



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Sunday, March 25, 1945

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Park finds wallet lost nearly 4 years ago

PA HERSHEY — A Pennsylvania man has his wallet back nearly four years after it apparently fell out of his pocket while riding a roller coaster.

It was a running family joke to tell the kids to look for dad's wallet every time they visited Hersheypark.

Jon Anson told WHTM-TV he got a call from the park that maintenance crews had found his wallet. Inside were his Hersheypark passes, a \$25 gift card to a book store, a gift card to a golf center and a Starbucks card with a balance of 87 cents.

Man protests town with middle finger sculpture

VT WESTFORD — A man said he built a massive sculpture of a middle finger off a Vermont highway to show the local government how he feels.

Ted Pelkey told WCAX-TV he spent \$4,000 on the sculpture near Route 128 in Westford.

He said he's been in a long-running dispute with town officials over whether he can develop his property and move his truck repair and recycling business there.

Records from last year show officials had concerns over how the development would be used.

Mourners, FedEx workers fight at funeral

NY NEW YORK — Police said a brawl broke out between FedEx workers and a group of mourners at a funeral in New York City.

Authorities said the fight began after a FedEx delivery truck struck a 46-year-old funeral attendee outside a mosque in Brooklyn on Monday afternoon.

Three people were hospitalized with minor injuries, including the pedestrian who was struck and a man who was slashed in the hand with a box-cutter.

Three others were taken into custody, including two 25-year-old FedEx workers. The FedEx truck's windows were smashed in the melee.

Puppy digs up tooth that's 13K years old

WA LANGLEY — An 8-month-old puppy digging a hole in a backyard in Washington state has made a 13,000-year-old discovery.

Kirk Lacewell said he thought it was unusual that his yellow Labrador retriever Scout carried around what appeared to be a piece of wood or rock for a couple of days. So the Whidbey Island man sent photographs of it to experts at the University of Washington's Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle.

KOMO reported that paleontologists concluded it was the tooth of a woolly mammoth that roamed thousands of years ago.

The fossilized tooth now sits on the mantle where Scout can no longer get it.

THE CENSUS

\$1.2K

The approximate value of a gold coin deposited by an anonymous donor in a Salvation Army kettle at a store in Crystal Lake, Ill. The Chicago Sun-Times reported someone also dropped a South African Krugerrand coin, also worth about \$1,200, and several gold coins and bars of undetermined value at a store in Geneva on Saturday. Another 1-ounce Gold Eagle coin was donated Saturday at a store in Fox Lake.



ANDY MATSKO, THE (POTTSVILLE, PA.) REPUBLICAN-HERALD/AP

In the holiday spirit

Port Carbon, Pa., street department supervisor Bob Faust places Christmas wreaths on poles in the borough on Monday. Palo Alto, Pa., donated the wreaths, and the Pottsville, Pa., street department loaned its bucket truck for the placing of the wreaths. Port Carbon's Christmas lights were damaged during floods last summer.

Police take disguised stun gun from girl, 11

CT HARTFORD — Police in Connecticut said they confiscated a stun gun modified to look like a phone from an 11-year-old girl at a Hartford elementary school.

Hartford police said the student was suspended and referred to juvenile court on charges she brought the functional device to McDonough Middle School on Thursday.

The Hartford Courant reported the stun gun is designed to look like a smartphone and is activated by a button on the side of the device.

Blue rubber ducks show support for artist

MI ST. JOHNS — Small blue rubber ducks were being used to show support for a mid-Michigan man after a judge ruled he must remove thousands of found objects featured in an outdoor art installation because they violate an anti-junk ordinance.

The Lansing State Journal re-

ported the ducks are popping up on mailboxes, car dashboards and in window sills in support of artist Robert Park.

Clinton County District Court Judge Michael Clarizio ruled Oct. 31 that Park must remove items along a pathway on his Bath Township property except for a blue plastic duck.

Park spent two years creating "The Blue Loop," which displays blue items. The plastic duck was the only object that didn't fit the definition of junk.

Church ends tradition of lutefisk dinner

MN FOREST LAKE — A Minnesota church has ended its 70-year tradition of serving a dinner of lutefisk, a Nordic dish of dried cod soaked in lye, and the pastor has penned a eulogy for the dinner's end.

Faith Lutheran Church in Forest Lake would serve a Scandinavian dinner featuring the pungent, jellylike fish the first Tuesday in December.

The Rev. John Klawitter wrote an obituary for the annual dinner in the community newspaper last month.

Klawitter wanted the obit to read as a tribute to the seven decades the church in east-central Minnesota has served hundreds of pounds of lutefisk at the annual dinner, dubbed "Holy Tuesday," the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported.

While no immediate replacement was announced, the pastor said the focus now will be on creating a new tradition.

The obit notes that lutefisk lovers still have other options nearby, with Scandinavian diners in other area towns listed as "survivors."

Battleship life ring displayed at museum

MA NATIC — A World War II museum in Massachusetts is displaying artifacts commemorating the Pearl Harbor attack ahead of the Dec. 7 anniversary.

The International Museum of World War II said it recently acquired a life ring from the USS Arizona.

The battleship was among those destroyed in the surprise attack by Japan on the U.S. naval

base in Hawaii that prompted the U.S. to enter the war in 1941.

The ship's sunken remains are now a national memorial.

The museum, located in the Boston suburb of Natick, also displays many other artifacts related to the attack.

Man rubbed hot sauce into children's eyes

MT GREAT FALLS — A Montana man was convicted of assaults on minors for beating his girlfriend's son with a belt and rubbing hot sauce in their eyes.

The children testified against Robert Mathew Holguin Jr., of Great Falls, on Tuesday.

Jurors found him guilty Wednesday.

Defense attorney Victor Bunitsky argued the boys' mother, Mandy Marie McElwain, gave Holguin permission to discipline the children and witnessed it.

Child welfare workers placed the boys — then 5 and 8 — in foster care in 2016.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Coal use drops to lowest levels since 1979

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER
AND MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are consuming less coal in 2018 than at any time since Jimmy Carter's presidency, a federal report said Tuesday, as cheap natural gas and other rival sources of energy frustrate the Trump administration's pledges to revive the U.S. coal industry.

A report by the U.S. Energy Information Administration projected Tuesday that 2018 would see the lowest U.S. coal consumption since 1979, as well as the second-

greatest number on record of coal-fired power plants shutting down.

The country's electrical grid accounts for most of U.S. coal consumption.

U.S. coal demand has been falling since 2007 in the face of competition from increasingly abundant and affordable natural gas and renewable energy, such as solar and wind power. Tougher pollution rules also have compelled some older, dirtier-burning coal plants to close rather than upgrade their equipment to trap more harmful coal emissions.

President Donald Trump has made bringing back the coal industry and abun-

dant coal jobs a tenet of his administration. He and other Republicans frequently attacked former President Barack Obama for waging what they called a "war on coal" through increased regulations that Republicans said killed jobs and harmed the industry.

Trump's enthusiasm for coal has helped to make Appalachian "coal country" one of Trump's most fervent bases of support as Trump racked up big wins in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and other states.

"The coal industry is back," Trump declared at one rally in West Virginia last summer.

Federal government figures continue to show otherwise, however, as market forces inexorably tamp down coal demand.

The Energy Information Administration says coal consumption by the country's power grid will end the year down 4 percent and fall another 8 percent in 2019.

Coal's continuing slump comes despite Trump's policy efforts to prop up the industry. That includes scrapping Obama's signature Clean Power Plan that would have spurred electrical suppliers to turn away from coal-fired power plants in favor of cleaner forms of energy such as natural gas.

Pointy helps small shops find Google customers

BY SPENCER SOPER
Bloomberg

Talbot's Toyland used to buy full-page newspaper ads during the holiday shopping season and hope for the best. Now the San Mateo, Calif., store is connecting with Bay Area toy shoppers on Google's search engine and attracting customers it might otherwise have never found.

Google for years has offered tools to help small merchants increase their online visibility, but only if those retailers had digital records of what was on their shelves. Like many small businesses, Talbot's lacked digital records of what was in stock and never got around to building one for its mammoth inventory of 65,000 products, which include a range of products from Lionel Trains collectibles to the latest must-have Legos.

Then last year the store purchased three devices from Pointy, a Dublin startup that helps independent merchants increase their



DAVID PAUL MORRIS/Bloomberg

A Pointy device sits by a register at Talbot's Toyland in San Mateo, Calif., where it has helped increase the store's online visibility.

visibility online and lure consumers who otherwise would shop at eBay or megaretailers like Amazon.com and Walmart, which have entire teams dedicated to being visible online.

The \$500 device plugs into a cash register and, using each item's bar code as employees ring up sales, creates a digital inventory that is posted online and

visible in Google searches along with the retailer's location. While Pointy's hardware has been around for four years, it just got more appealing, thanks to a new partnership with Google that lets merchants buy "local inventory ads" that appear in the search results of nearby shoppers.

Talbot's, which has been in business for more than 60 years,

saw immediate results. Potential shoppers called to confirm that the items they wanted were in stock. Talbot's knew those were new customers, since many asked for directions, and the store surmised that at least some of the newbies were tipped off by the advertising generated by the Google-Pointy partnership.

Sales are up by double digits this year, which Talbot's attributed to this added online visibility as well as the closure of nearby Toys R Us locations.

MARKET WATCH

Dec. 4, 2018

Dow Jones industrials	-799.36
	25,027.07
Nasdaq composite	-283.09
	7,158.43
Standard & Poor's 500	-90.31
	27,006.06
Russell 2000	-68.21
	1,480.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 6)	\$1,1648
Dollar buys (Dec. 6)	€0.8955
British pound	1.31
Japanese yen (Dec. 6)	110.00
South Korean won (Dec. 6)	1,084.40

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$7,865
Chinese yuan (Renminbi)	131.11
China (Yuan)	6,855.9
Denmark (Krone)	6,5909
Egypt (Pound)	17,3939
Finland (Euro)	1,132,393.93
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7,8134
Hungary (Forint)	285.84
India (Rupee)	23,90
Japan (Yen)	113.15
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3041
Norway (Krone)	8,85
Philippines (Peso)	52.87
Poland (Zloty)	3.78
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3,7533
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4573
South Korea (Won)	1,113.70
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0000
Thailand (Baht)	3.75
Turkey (Lira)	5,3397

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers of military banking facilities. Commercial rates are issued by commercial currency dealers in Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States. For commercial currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies converted to U.S. dollars, rounded, and which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.20
3-month bill	2.37
30-year bond	3.16

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



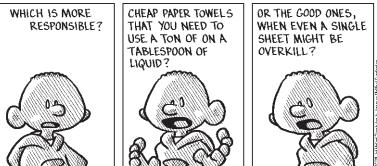
FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Guam
88/81

Frazz



Dilbert



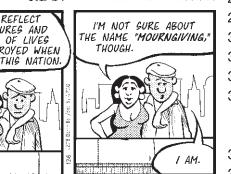
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



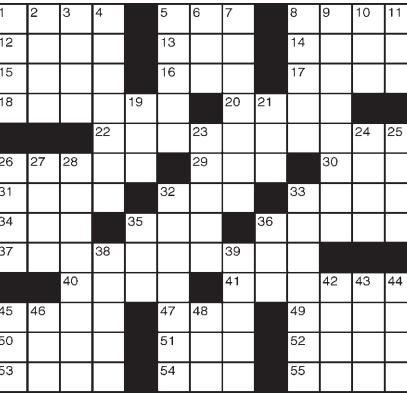
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 Retained
5 More, to Manuel
8 Garbage barge
12 Declare
13 Mandala's org.
14 Arm bone
15 Actress Sorvino
16 Hide-hair insert
17 Disorder
18 Grads
20 Miles away
22 Wallet thief
26 Cads
29 "Fresh Air" airer
30 Wedding words
31 Vogue rival
32 Coquettish
33 "Young Frankenstein" role
34 Soul, to Sartre
35 Spill catcher
36 Egged on
37 Small
40 Ellington's "Take — Train"
41 NHL team
45 Brazilian rubber
47 Part of DJIA
49 Now, in a memo
50 Out of control
51 Historic period
52 Peacekeeping org.

DOWN

1 — Sutra
2 Wicked
3 Lima's land
4 Crush under-foot
5 Frenzied
6 Year in Acapulco
7 Full of spunk
8 Poison —
9 Working for a judge
10 Clip — (some ties)
11 Existed
19 Serbian city
21 In favor of
23 Door handles

24 Rim
25 Frog's kin
26 Pile
27 Ticklish Muppet
28 Charged particle
32 Fortress
33 The Emerald Isle
35 Spell-off
36 Sub-machine gun
38 Uniform color
39 Hawkeye
42 Jacob's twin
43 Assess
44 Leopard's feature
45 Standard
46 "I — Rock"
48 Mined-over matter

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	P	S	S	E
M	I	R	O	S
A	S	T	A	C
S	A	M	D	R
B	R	O	E	E
W	Y	O	N	H
O	U	T	E	E
A	S	T	A	C
C	E	R	D	R
T	L	O	E	E
S	I	R	A	C
D	O	E	R	E
T	O	N	D	N
N	E	W	I	N
R	E	A	T	T
E	I	S	O	M
P	E	T	A	S
U	S	E	S	T
A	F	O	R	S
C	L	O	P	S
T	L	O	R	S
S	I	C	E	S
D	O	R	E	S
T	O	N	D	N
N	E	W	I	N
R	E	A	T	T
E	I	S	O	M
P	E	T	A	S

12-6

CRYPTOQUIP

P G N K B W V A G L A D B J L I R G ' V

V B J R I N , D B L J L J K G B P O V B

B C A W J ? L F F L I W J A O N G W ' V

A G W F I H J R W B C P L H O V .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOMEBODY TOTALLY SCRAPED OFF THE NAPPED LEATHER FROM THIS SURFACE. HAS IT BEEN DIS-SUEDED?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals M



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Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League

DETROIT — Agreed to terms with LHP Matt Moore on a one-year contract.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Promoted Paul Hoover to fielding coordinator. Named Jim Erlichman process and analytical consultant. Promoted Regan Wong, physical therapist, to promoted Jacob Newburn to assistant strength coach.

TEXAS RANGERS — Named Oscar Martinez bullpen coach, Cliff Crabbe as assistant hitting coach and Regan Wong, physical therapist, to promoted Jacob Newburn to assistant strength coach.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

NBA — Fired L.A. Clippers G Patrick Beverley \$25,000 for throwing the game ball at a fan. Suspended L.A. R's R.J. Barrett \$15,000 for public criticism of officiating.

CHICAGO BULLS — Announced the resignation of assistant coach Randy Brown. Promoted director of player development and basketball operations to coach. Named Dean Cooper assistant coach.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Signed F Jio Kim Noah for the remainder of the season.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL — Announced the San Francisco 49ers LS Matt Prater had been suspended 10 games for violating the league's policy on performance-enhancing substances.

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Placed OL Mike Scott, WR Christian Kirk and DE Kyle Van Noy on injured reserve.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed DE Vontravers Dora and WR Jalen Tollerive from the practice squad.

DETROIT LIONS — Released WRs Kelvin Benjamin and Andre Sudbury from the practice squad.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed DE Devin Bonner from the practice squad.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed DE AJ Derby on injured reserve. Claimed DE DeShawn Wynn from the practice squad.

OAKLAND RAIDERS — Waived DE Fadol Brown. Signed DE Damontre Moore.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Placed WR Justin Hunter on injured reserve.

HOKEY

National Hockey League

NHL — Approved the addition of a franchise in Seattle to begin play in 2021.

DETROIT RED WINGS — Signed C Wade Megan from Grand Rapids (AHL). Reassigned F Dylan Sadowy from Grand Rapids to the practice squad.

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Signed F Sheldon Rempel to Ontario (AHL).

DETROIT RED WINGS — Signed F Stephen Glantz to Bridgeport (AHL). Recalled G Christopher Gibson from Bridgeport.

NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned F Ryan Groop from Hartford (AHL) to Maine (ECHL).

OLYMPIC SPORTS

U.S. ANTI-DOPING AGENCY — Named Adam Woulard director of communications.

Soccer

Major League Soccer

NEW YORK CITY FC — Named Brad Sims CEO.

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Executed options on G Evan Luu and Ryan Meara; D Kyle Duncan, Aaron Long and Michael Bradley; and M Alexander Tareen, Eric Ertz, Ettiene Jr., Alex Muyl and Florian Valot; and Fs Anibal, Abang and Brian White.

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed F David Villa from Real Madrid (La Liga).

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed F Stephen Giunta to Bridgeport (AHL). Recalled G Christopher Gibson from Bridgeport.

NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned F Ryan Groop from Hartford (AHL) to Maine (ECHL).

OLYMPIC SPORTS

U.S. ANTI-DOPING AGENCY — Named Adam Woulard director of communications.

COLLEGE

ARKANSAS — Announced GO Cole Kelly will transfer.

COLLEGE — Named Scott Satterfield football coach.

MARYLAND — Named Mike Locksley football coach.

COLLEGE

WICHITA STATE'S Soccer League — Re-signed F Estefania Banihi.

COLLEGE

NHL

Roundup

Matthews, Leafs top Sabres in OT

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Auston Matthews scored his second goal with three seconds on the clock in overtime, and the Toronto Maple Leafs matched their best start in 84 years with a 4-3 victory over the Buffalo Sabres on Tuesday night.

The Maple Leafs won their fifth straight game and improved to 20-8. The only other time it took them just 28 games to reach 20 wins was when they opened the 1934-35 season at 20-6.

Patrick Marleau scored with 5:13 remaining in regulation to force overtime, and Kasperi Kapanen set up the decisive goal. Jake Gardiner also scored and Mitchell Marner had an assist to give him 11 in five games. Frederik Andersen stopped 38 shots to win his fourth straight.

Golden Knights 5, Capitals 3: Nate Schmidt scored twice in the final two minutes to lift host Vegas over Washington in a rematch of the Stanley Cup final last spring.

It was the first time Washington skated at T-Mobile Arena since winning and hoisting the Stanley Cup in June.

Penguins 6, Avalanche 3: Patric Hornqvist's natural hat trick in the third period powered host Pittsburgh over Colorado.

The Avalanche had erased a three-goal deficit to tie the game going into the third when Hornqvist went to work.

Lightning 6, Red Wings 5 (SO): Nikita Kucherov and defenseman Victor Hedman scored in a shootout to give visiting Tampa Bay a comeback win over Detroit.

The Lightning, who have won seven of eight, erased a 3-2 deficit in the third period and overcame Frans Nielsen's hat trick.

Jets 3, Islanders 1: Jacob Trouba and Adam Lowry scored 22 seconds apart early in the third period to rally visiting Winnipeg past New York.

Flames 9, Blue Jackets 6: Johnny Gaudreau had two goals and two assists, and visiting Calgary scored five times in the second period to rally past Columbus.

Cam Atkinson netted a hat trick to extend his point streak to 11 games, but the Blue Jackets lost their second straight.

Canadiens 5, Senators 2: Max Domi had two goals and an assist and Jonathan Drouin added a goal and two assists as host Montreal defeated Ottawa.

Artturi Lehkonen and Brendan Gallagher also scored for the Canadiens, who won for the second time in eight games. Carey Price stopped 28 shots.

Wild 3, Canucks 2: Jason Zucker broke a tie late in the second period and visiting Minnesota scored on all three of its power plays, beating staggering Vancouver to stop a three-game slide.

Ryan Suter and Zach Parise also scored for the Wild. Devan Dubnyk made 29 saves and Mikael Granlund had two assists.

Coyotes 2, Kings 1: Nick Schmaltz had a power-play goal, Adin Hill made 25 saves for his fourth straight win and visiting Arizona beat Los Angeles.

Lawson Crouse scored a short-handed goal for the Coyotes, undefeated since acquiring Schmaltz in a trade with Chicago on Nov. 25.



JEFFREY T. BARNES/AP

Sabres goalie Linus Ullmark stops a shot by Toronto Maple Leafs forward Ayston Matthews during Tuesday's game in Buffalo, N.Y.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	Atlantic Division					
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	29	21	7	3	43	114
Toronto	28	20	8	0	40	102
Boston	27	14	9	2	32	71
Montreal	28	13	10	5	31	88
Florida	26	11	10	4	27	87
Ottawa	28	12	13	3	27	91
Washington	27	15	9	3	33	98
Columbus	27	15	10	2	32	96
N.Y. Rangers	28	13	12	3	29	89
Carolina	26	12	10	4	28	66
Chicago	28	9	14	5	23	77
New Jersey	26	9	12	5	24	76

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	28	19	8	1	39	90
Colorado	26	14	10	3	31	79
Winnipeg	27	17	8	2	36	94
Dallas	28	15	10	3	33	78
Phoenix	28	9	14	5	23	77
St. Louis	25	9	13	3	21	74

Western Conference

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	28	19	8	1	39	90
Edmonton	28	14	10	3	31	79
Arizona	26	13	11	2	26	86
Vancouver	30	11	16	3	25	84
Los Angeles	28	10	17	1	21	59
San Jose	28	10	17	1	21	59

Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	29	21	7	3	43	114
Toronto	28	20	8	0	40	102
Boston	27	14	9	2	32	71
Montreal	28	13	10	5	31	88
Florida	26	11	10	4	27	87
Ottawa	28	12	13	3	27	91

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	28	17	11	2	36	100
Anaheim	29	14	10	3	33	70
Edmonton	28	14	10	3	31	70
Vegas	29	15	13	1	31	87
Arizona	26	13	11	2	26	86
Minnesota	28	11	16	3	25	84
Los Angeles	28	10	17	1	21	59
San Jose	28	10	17	1	21	59

NHL

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Edmonton	28	19	8	1	39	90
Colorado	26	14	10	3	31	79
Phoenix	28	15	10	3	31	78
St. Louis	25	9	13	3	21	74

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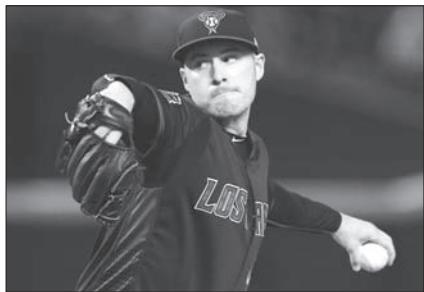
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MLB/SPORTS BRIEFS



RICK SCUTERI/AP

Pitcher Patrick Corbin, a two-time All-Star with Arizona, has agreed to a six-year contract with the Washington Nationals.

Nats land Corbin for 6 years, \$140M

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Add Patrick Corbin to the All-Star starting staff the Washington Nationals have assembled.

A person familiar with the deal said the left-handed Corbin has agreed to a six-year contract with the Nationals, pending a physical exam. Another person familiar with the terms said the contract is for \$140 million.

The people confirmed the details of the agreement to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity Tuesday because nothing had been announced by the team.

Corbin's contract would include \$10 million in deferred money, one of the people said.

Corbin, who has played his entire major league career for the Arizona Diamondbacks, joins a rotation in Washington that already includes three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg. Corbin was an NL All-Star selection in 2013 and this year; Scherzer has been picked for each of the past six Midsummer Classics; Strasburg has made it three times.

The 29-year-old Corbin is coming off his best season in the majors, going 11-7 with a 3.15 ERA while pitching 200 innings for the

second time in his career.

He finished fifth in voting for NL Cy Young honors; Scherzer was second as he came up just shy of a third consecutive prize.

Corbin was considered the top starter available in an elite free-agent class and became the first player among them to sign a big money, multiyear deal this offseason.

Still on the market is right fielder Bryce Harper, the 2012 NL Rookie of the Year and 2015 NL MVP for the Nationals. Washington made a late-season offer to Harper in a bid to keep him, but that was not accepted.

Corbin recently made the rounds of free-agent suitors, including meeting with Nationals owner Mark Lerner and general manager Mike Rizzo.

The signing of Corbin — who had drawn interest from the New York Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies, among other clubs, and was expected to draw offers of at least \$20 million a year — could be a signal that the Nationals are moving on from Harper.

Because Corbin declined a \$17.9 million qualifying offer by Arizona, Washington would forfeit its first-round pick in next June's amateur draft, No. 17 overall, and Arizona would gain an extra pick after the first round as compensation.

Briefly

Redskins 'discussed' Kaepernick

Gruden: Not signing former 49ers QB a 'strictly football' decision

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The possibility of bringing in Colin Kaepernick for a tryout was "discussed" by the quarterback-needy Washington Redskins, according to coach Jay Gruden, who said Tuesday the team made a "strictly football" decision to look elsewhere.

The team announced Wednesday that they signed Josh Johnson to be their backup quarterback.

"Isn't it obvious what the real reason is?" Kaepernick's lawyer, Mark Geragos, wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

Kaepernick, who led the San Francisco 49ers to a Super Bowl appearance, hasn't played since the 2016 season, when he began kneeling during the national anthem as a way to protest police brutality and social and racial injustice. He filed a grievance against the NFL last year, saying team owners colluded to keep him off rosters.

Gruden told reporters during a conference call that there would have been "a greater possibility" of considering Kaepernick for a roster spot if the Redskins were in need of a QB in Week 1 rather than at this stage of the season.

"Not a lot of time to really get a brand new quarterback and new system installed and taught in a couple of days of practice," Gruden said. "So he's been talked about and discussed, but we'll probably go a different direction."

Washington quarterback Colt McCoy had surgery Tuesday after fracturing his right fibula in a 28-13 loss at the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday night. McCoy had replaced Alex Smith as the starting quarterback after Smith broke his right leg in a game last month and is out for the season.

Gruden said McCoy would not go on injured reserve immediately because there is a slight chance he might be able to return to action by Week 17.

Now the Redskins will turn to Mark Sanchez, who starts at QB Sunday for the Redskins (6-6) against the visiting New York Gi-

ants (4-8).

Against the Eagles, the 32-year-old Sanchez compiled a passer rating of 53.7, going 13-for-21 for only 100 yards with one interception.

In other NFL news:

■ The NFL placed official Roy Ellison on administrative leave while it investigates an accusation that he called Bills defensive end Jerry Hughes a vulgar name during Buffalo's game at Miami on Sunday.

The league confirmed Ellison's status and the investigation Tuesday but provided no other details.

■ The Panthers have officially placed three-time Pro Bowl tight end Greg Olsen on injured reserve.

The move was expected after Olsen told reporters on Sunday that he ruptured his right plantar fascia in Carolina's 24-17 loss to the Buccaneers.

■ The Buffalo Bills cut Kelvin Benjamin with four weeks left in the season in an indication of how poorly the receiver underperformed during his 13 months with the team.

Benjamin had just 23 catches on 62 targets for 354 yards and one touchdown, and was knocked for several drops as well as running poor routes this season.

Maryland hires Alabama coordinator Locksley

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland hired Alabama offensive coordinator Mike Locksley as its football coach Tuesday night, bringing home a familiar presence after the most tumultuous year in the program's recent history.

Locksley will take over after a season defined by tragedy and turmoil. Offensive lineman Jordan McNair died in June of heatstroke he suffered during an offseason workout, and in the wake of his death came allegations of bullying and intimidation by coach DJ Durkin and one of his assistants.

Durkin spent more than two months on administrative leave

while independent investigations were conducted into McNair's death and the culture surrounding the team. The governing board for the state university system decided to reinstate Durkin on Oct. 30, a decision that prompted widespread outrage and protests by players. University president Wallace Loh fired Durkin the next day.

Matt Canada served as interim coach this fall and presided over a 5-7 season. He was credited with keeping the team together under difficult circumstances and he interviewed for the permanent job, but Maryland instead went with Locksley, who had two previous stops with the Terps.

Locksley, who won the Broyles Award on Tuesday as the nation's top assistant coach, was Maryland's running backs coach from 1997-2002, and later returned as the program's offensive coordinator from 2012-15.

In other college football news:

■ Former Clemson starting quarterback Kelly Bryant says he'll play his final season at Missouri.

Bryant had visited several schools after he announced his transfer from Clemson because he was demoted as starting quarterback behind freshman Trevor Lawrence. Others he met with included Arkansas, Auburn, Mississippi State and North Carolina.

Bryant helped Clemson win an Atlantic Coast Conference title and reach the College Football Playoff in 2017.

76ers' Fultz out with thoracic irritation

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia 76ers guard Markelle Fultz is out indefinitely with thoracic outlet syndrome.

Fultz visited with several specialists to figure out what's ailing him. The Sixers said the specialists have identified a compression or irritation in the area between the lower neck and upper chest. Physical therapy was recommended for Fultz before returning to play.

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JAMES KENNEY/AP

Tennessee Titans wide receiver Corey Davis, right, celebrates with Taywan Taylor after Davis scored a touchdown on an 11-yard pass against the New York Jets on Sunday in Nashville, Tenn. Davis and Taylor, along with Tajae Sharpe, have taken over the receiving duties for the Titans due to injuries.

Trio of young receivers producing for Tennessee

BY TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

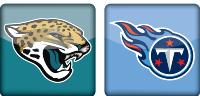
The Tennessee Titans' trust in their young receivers may be starting to pay off.

Corey Davis, the fifth overall pick in the 2017 draft, is leading the Titans with 444 yards receiving and could become the franchise's first 1,000-yard receiver since 2013. Tajae Sharpe notched his first 100-yard receiving performance in October, and Taywan Taylor became the third to post a new career high with 104 yards receiving in the Titans' comeback win against the Jets.

It's a confident trio that's becoming more comfortable each week.

"We know what type of players we are," Taylor said Tuesday. "We know what we bring to the table, all of us, my brothers in the receiving room and everybody on this team. We know what type of players we are, and ... when we trust our training and everybody executes, good things can happen."

The Titans signed only veteran Michael Campanaro during the offseason and didn't replace him when he was placed on injured reserve. They signed young tight ends in Anthony Firkser and My-Cole Pruitt after three-time Pro Bowler Delanie Walker broke his



Jacksonville Jaguars (4-8)

at Tennessee Titans (6-6)

AFN-Sports

2 a.m. Friday CET

10 a.m. Friday JKT

right ankle in the opener. Since then, they've leaned on Davis, Sharpe and Taylor along with Darius Jennings and Cameron Batson.

Mix in a new offense with a first-year play-caller in coordinator Matt LaFleur, and the Titans have had plenty of growing pains. It didn't help when Taylor, their speed threat, missed three games with an injured left foot. Taylor was drafted in the third round out of Western Kentucky last year.

Mariota overthrew Taylor on the first play of the fourth quarter against the Jets. Now the key for Mariota and his receivers is continuing to show progress as the Titans chase a second straight playoff berth.

"It was good to see Taywan be able to stretch the defense and go make a play," coach Mike Vrabel said. "I know Marcus would like

to have the one back, but to be able to hit two of those to change field position and momentum, certainly, we would like to have as many of those every week as we could."

The Titans (6-6) need the young receivers to produce for an offense that ranks 29th in the NFL, managing just 197.5 yards passing per game. It won't be easy Thursday night when they host the Jaguars (4-8) and a secondary featuring Jalen Ramsey and A.J. Bouye in a game Tennessee needs to win to keep itself in the chase for the AFC's final wild-card slot.

This franchise hasn't had a receiver post back-to-back 100-yard receiving games since Nate Washington did it in September 2013.

Mariota sees the Titans' comfort level growing weekly as they become more efficient. Getting Taylor back should ease the defensive focus on Davis, who had 161 yards receiving in the Titans' overtime win over Philadelphia in September and 125 yards against the Patriots in November.

Now the key for Mariota and his receivers is continuing to show progress as the Titans chase a second straight playoff berth.

"We've just got to continue working at it," Mariota said. "It's a process, but I think it's something to build off of and something that we can move forward."

Leaders

AFC						
Week 13						
Quarterbacks						
Att	Com	Yds	Td	Int	Yds	TD
Pittsburgh, PIT	517	341	3945	26	13	25
Nashville, TEN	380	265	3418	28	10	25
Buffalo, NY	434	295	3112	20	8	25
Colo. OAK	364	242	3031	21	9	25
Watson, HOU	361	256	2561	14	10	25
Baltimore, BAL	354	265	2639	14	10	25
Browns, CLE	369	223	2572	13	10	25
Rushers						
Yds	Avg	LG	TD			
Lindsay, DEN	154	937	61,651	7		
Conner, PIT	176	305	45,30	10		
Miller, HOU	181	824	4,6	45		
Kareem, HUN	153	802	5,2	341		
M. Gordon, LAC	154	802	5,2	341		
Brown, NE	131	694	5,3	292		
N. Chubb, CLE	141	680	4,8	771		
Crowell, NYJ	144	652	4,8	681		
Michel, NE	139	616	4,4	39		
Gore, MA	139	616	4,4	39		
Receivers						
Yds	Avg	LG	TD			
Hill, K.C.	66	1119	17.0	751		
D. Hopkins, HOU	80	1115	13.9	496		
McKinstry, PIT	66	1082	16.0	500		
Kelce, KC	78	1082	13.7	439		
A. Brown, PIT	81	1028	12.7	781		
M. Anderson, LAC	83	998	12.0	545		
Bell, CIN	63	938	12.6	492		
E. Sanders, DEN	71	868	12.2	641		
T. Hilton, IND	71	787	12.8	681		
Cor. Davis, TEN	52	744	14.1	51		
Punters						
Yds	Avg	LG	TD			
Korn, TEN	15	2704	14.0	47		
Koch, BAL	47	2211	65	47.0		
McGraw, NYJ	56	2109	65	46.0		
R. Allen, NE	42	1922	61	45.8		
Sanchez, IND	64	2910	65	45.5		
Haack, MA	66	2850	65	45.5		
D. Colquitt, CLE	34	1535	67	45.1		
Bojorquez, BUF	45	2025	60	45.1		
Switzer, PIT	21	175	8.3	27		
Kickoff returners						
Yds	Avg	LG	TD			
J. Roberts, NYJ	19	182	1.0	19		
D. King, LAC	19	185	1.0	731		
Erickson, CIN	19	182	12.1	38		
Tr. Smith, KC	19	182	12.1	38		
Dw. Harris, OAK	15	153	10.2	49		
Peppers, CLE	20	179	9.0	33		
Switzer, PIT	16	179	9.0	33		
Tyler, EVIN, HOU	21	175	8.3	27		
Scoring Touchdowns						
Yds	Avg	LG	TD			
Jennings, TEN	15	522	34.8	95		
Patterson, NE	15	580	55	95		
McKinstry, PIT	15	522	27.9	97		
McKinstry, LAC	23	596	25.9	51		
Erickson, CIN	26	665	25.5	51		
Robertson, NYJ	20	595	25.0	50		
Dw. Harris, OAK	19	421	22.2	31		
Peppers, CLE	16	340	21.6	28		
Switzer, PIT	19	451	13.6	35		
Scoring Touchdowns						
Yds	Avg	LG	TD			
Kareem, HUN	14	7	0	84		
Conner, PIT	13	12	1	0	82	
McKinstry, LAC	13	12	1	0	82	
Ebrom, PIT	12	10	1	0	82	
K. White, NE	10	4	6	0	56	
B. Chubb, CLE	9	7	2	0	54	
D. Swanson, HOU	9	1	0	54		
Lindsay, DEN	9	1	0	54		
Kicking						
PAT	FG	LG	TD			
Fairbairn, HOU	19	29-30	54	116		
Butler, KC	51	15-19	29	50	10	
McKinstry, LAC	29	37-37	22	52	103	
Gostkowski, NE	28	37-37	22	56	103	
Tucker, BAL	28	29-29	12.7	56	103	
Swanson, HOU	28	37-37	22	56	103	
Vinatieri, IND	32	34-34	17.1	54	83	
McManus, DEN	30	36-30	12.0	53	78	
Lambe, JAG	30	36-30	19-21	57	75	
J. Sanders, MIA	26	36-27	16-17	50	74	
DEFEN						
Yards	Rush	Pass				
Baltimore, BAL	281.7	87	194.4			
Buffalo, NY	315.6	104	207.2			
Jacksonville, JACKSONVILLE	315.6	104	207.2			
Pittsburgh, PIT	328.9	100.4	228.5			
New England, NE	340.9	119.8	272.1			
Indianapolis, IND	341.9	104.3	243.2			
NY. Jets	376.4	128.3	248.1			
Denver, DEN	382.8	120.4	243.9			
Landover, MD	382.9	120.4	243.9			
Tennessee, TEN	341.5	93	250.2			
Philadelphia, PHI	310.2	112.7	197.5			
Seattle, SEA	331.3	95	236.3			
Cincinnati, CIN	310.9	126.0	239.8			
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HEISMAN TROPHY FINALISTS

ALABAMA QB TUA TAGOVAILOA

No defining moment? No problem



Teammates say sophomore leader played critical role in Tide's domination

BY JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

Tua Tagovailoa hasn't produced a so-called Heisman moment this season.

He didn't have one in the Southeastern Conference championship game. Hurt and not quite himself, the Alabama quarterback was sidelined for the climactic final minutes of the top-ranked Crimson Tide's comeback, 35-28 win Saturday over No. 6 Georgia in Atlanta.

So Tagovailoa, hampered by a high ankle sprain, didn't produce a defining play or performance in the biggest game of the season that Alabama has mostly dominated.

To Tagovailoa's teammates, that shouldn't matter.

Though obviously somewhat biased, they may be right.

He was among the Heisman finalists announced Monday evening, along with Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield, Murray and Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins.

"Tua's the best football player in the country," Alabama tailback Damien Harris said after the title game. "I don't think he needs a Heisman moment. That's some made-up thing, criteria, that people have invented to try to get people an award if they necessarily deserve it or not."

"Tua's the most deserving of the Heisman man and I hope everybody sees it that way because what he's done for our team, for our university, for our community, for our fans, for everybody, is just irreplaceable. I hope that everybody realizes that."

Truth is, Tagovailoa started 2018 with a Heisman moment — just in a different season.

The second-half comeback and winning, 41-yard touchdown pass to DeVonta Smith in overtime just happened to come at the end of last season in the national title game.

It gave the sophomore from Hawaii national name recognition and made him the betting favorite for the Heisman even before he

“...what he’s done for our team, for our university, for our community, for our fans, for everybody, is just irreplaceable. I hope that everybody realizes that.”

Damien Harris
Alabama tailback

started a game. He has lived up to the hype.

Tagovailoa delivered possibly the most dominating season of any quarterback at Alabama, which has never had a Heisman winner at the position. He was named AP's SEC offensive player of the year on Monday and was a unanimous pick as the first-team quarterback.

Tagovailoa has led the Tide back to the playoffs and a matchup with Murray and Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl on Dec. 29.

It was a season of terrific performances when Alabama was so dominant that Tagovailoa threw only three fourth-quarter passes during the first 12 games. There were plenty of dynamic plays from the left-hander, starting on the season's opening drive when he threw for a touchdown after spinning away from one Louisville defender and launching an off-balance, midair touchdown pass just before taking a hit.

Tagovailoa passed for 3,353 yards and a school-record 37 TDs against just four interceptions.

But two of those picks came near

Georgia's goal line in the SEC title game.

He came into the game as the nation's most efficient passer and widely regarded as the Heisman front-runner but rolled his left ankle early and mostly struggled. Tagovailoa was helped off the field after his own offensive lineman landed on his right foot in the fourth quarter.

Tagovailoa's day ended with a pedestrian 10-for-25, 164-yard, one-touchdown stat line. It remains to be seen how much it weighed into the decisions of Heisman voters.

Teammates voiced hopes that their star

would be judged more on the first 12 games.

Tagovailoa piled up five 300-yard passing games this season and accounted for a school-record six touchdowns — five passing, one rushing — in the regular-season finale against Auburn. Despite all that, Harris calls him "the most humble guy that I know."

FINALIST FACTS

WHO: Tua Tagovailoa

YEAR/POSITION/SCHOOL: Sophomore, QB, Alabama

BIO: A native of Hawaii, Tagovailoa was a five-star recruit who came off the bench to lead a comeback in the national championship game to finish his freshman season. Beat out two-year starter Jalen Hurts.

KEY STATS: Passed for 3,353 yards and 37 touchdowns against four interceptions. Had a string of 194 passes without an interception starting in the third quarter of January's title game with Georgia. At-

tempted only three fourth-quarter passes during the regular season with Alabama building big leads.

THE SKINNY: Opened the season as the betting favorite for the Heisman despite not starting a game, thanks largely to a performance in the national title game that included the 41-yard winning touchdown pass in overtime. Left the Southeastern Conference championship game in the same Atlanta stadium with a high ankle sprain. Injured early in the game and again late, it was a rare off-performance for Tagovailoa.

— Associated Press

SPORTS



Tua's time?

Tide teammates say QB deserves Heisman » **Page 47**

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Nevada forward Cody Martin, right, dribbles down court as his twin brother Caleb, left, trails Saturday against Southern California in Los Angeles. With the twins delaying their departure to the NBA to return to Reno, the Wolf Pack have five redshirt seniors in their starting lineup.

Another perfect start

Martin twins help boost No. 6 Nevada to second straight 8-0 record

BY BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nevada's bus pulled into Loyola of Chicago's arena and the Wolf Pack made their way to the locker room. Even behind closed doors, one of college basketball's most derisive chants rang in

their ears: "Over-rated!"

Of course the Ramblers' fans laid it on thick last week. Nevada nearly derailed the team's storybook run in the NCAA Tournament last season.

"We're getting used to this," coach Eric Musselman said.

No. 6 Nevada has matched its 8-0 start

from last season, winning its games by an average of 20 points.

"We've had this number next to our name — preseason, before we even played a game — and we hadn't proven anything, so we're just trying to continue to validate who we are as a basketball team," Musselman said.

Last season, Nevada went 29-8, won the

Mountain West regular-season title and earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. They beat Texas and Cincinnati to reach the Sweet 16 before losing to Loyola of Chicago 69-68.

Last week, the Wolf Pack avenged that heartbreakng defeat with a 79-65 victory.

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No. 5 Wolverines survive scare by Wildcats » Page 45

